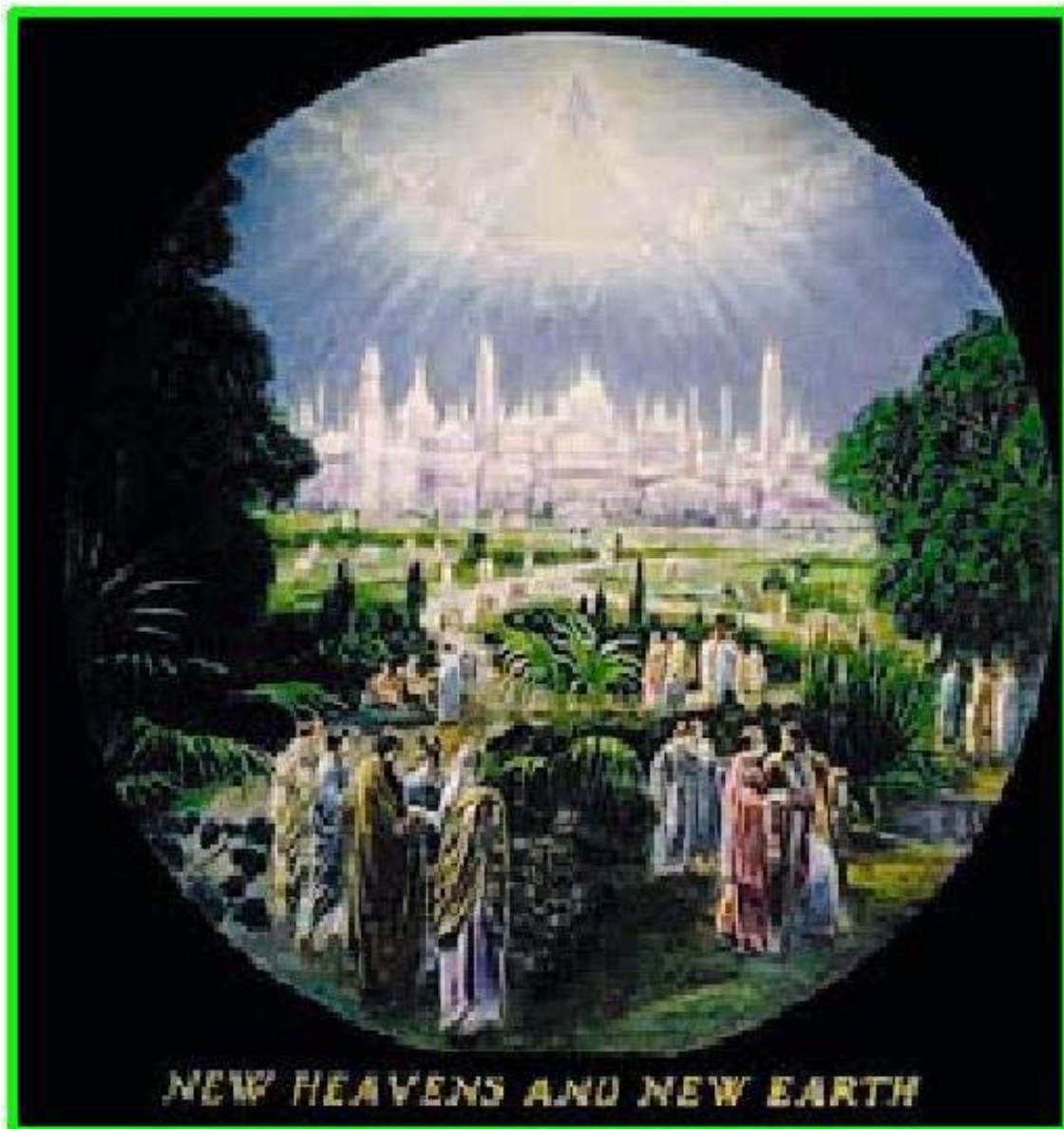


# The Reign of Christ - Present Or future?

Lessons from the Psalms  
On The Reign of Christ



Zions Tower of the Morning  
P.O.Box 3261  
Southfield, MI 48037-3261

**The Reign of Christ - Present or future?**  
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ZION'S  
TOWER  
OF THE  
MORNING

# **The Reign of Christ - Present or Future?**

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**Lessons from the Psalms  
on the Reign of Christ**

**2000 – 2009**

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# The Reign of Christ Present or Future?

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## Lessons from Psalms on the Reign of Christ

*“He shall reign from sea to sea and from the river unto the ends of the earth” (Psa. 72:8)  
“For He shall reign until he hath put all enemies under his feet; the last enemy to be destroyed  
is death.” (1Cor. 15:24,25) “Come and let us reason together.” (Isa. 1:18) “It is written, ‘Man  
shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”  
(Matt.4:2, New KJV)*

THIS IS A SUBJECT upon which there are many opinions. It is prophetic and not, therefore, one that could be put in the area of dogma to include or exclude any of the Lord's people. It is **not** a matter of who has *the latest article* on the subject. It can be easily established that there are articles **pro** and **con** *throughout* the writings. (See Notes at the end of study) That is *not* our object here. We wish to present the Scriptures and to **reason** on them. Unfortunately, *free expression* has been stifled in public areas. (Gal. 6:6) It is an area where understanding of the brotherhood should prevail. In this spirit we *approach* this subject.

Several talks have been recently given on the Reign of Christ *begun*. Thirty-two years ago, *we shared such a view* and published a booklet to that effect. *We no longer accept that view!* The



booklet had about 300 references pro and con from our Pastor. We were aware that there was a “future” view on the subject, but because we did not have for ourselves *sufficient evidence* to enhance our understanding, we **“adopted”** the prevailing “reign begun” view of the day. As you know, the Dawn published the booklet called *“O the Blessedness”* in the year 1966. That booklet contained *many* article references of Pastor Russell expressing his views on *the other (or future) side* of the Reign question.

**Introduction** We are Bible *Students*, Watchers and **SEEKERS** of Truth. Jesus said, “What I say unto you, I say unto all **Watch.**” We are called *“Truth People.”* As such, we desire to be “seekers of truth” and as Br. Russell put it, “Do not accept what I say, **except you have first proven it by the Word of God.**” That Word is **our** primary “standard.” (“lift up a standard” Isa. 59:19) We do not intend to pit one article against another saying, “I am right and you are wrong.” Our intention was to examine all those articles of the Harvest Message and exercise our responsibility to prove and confirm the message of those teachings **against the Word of God.**

**That Servant, Servants, Present Truth** We believe that Charles Russell is **“that wise and faithful servant”** (Matt 24:44-46) **to the church Laodicia.** His was a message so encompassing, so great in scope, a summary message like no other **ever given** in the Gospel Age to the present. That message *continues* to the end of the age harvest of wheat. Because of present construction placed on Matthew 24:45,(KJV—BSL/CD99), “Who then is **the faithful and wise servant,** whom his lord hath set over his household, to give them their food in due season?” it is necessary to explain some things generally misunderstood.

(1) That servant was **not an organization** or group **but an individual.** (2) **Luke 12:37** “Blessed are **those servants,** whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and shall come and serve **them.**” There were other servants not of “that servant” category. (3) The meanings of “ruler,” “household,” “goods,” “meat in due season,” and “stewards.” We shall endeavor to explain these generally confused misunderstandings making the following extensive quotes from a study of Matthew 24:

**Ruler Over His Household vs. Localized or National Stewardship** “In principle, others during the Harvest period may do something like this [as a servant] but in *localized* areas. That “faithful and wise servant” [Charles Russell] was **a steward over the “household,” which is a larger ministry.** The **Lord has used remarkable servants besides the seven messengers** --for example, Tyndale in Luther's day. However, the Lord particularly used Luther, and Luther's ministry **had a more widespread effect worldwide** while Tyndale's ministry pertained especially to England. Pastor Russell **had a general stewardship,** not a localized, one-nation stewardship. Thus **individuals other than the seven special ones were used down through the Gospel Age** but not as rule in a stewardship arrangement that was **more widespread** in influence. In principle, an elder is responsible to the ones he exercises an influence with.”

## **We Shall Reign**

When the Lord from heav'n appears, When are banished all our fears,  
When the sleepers from the tomb, With the watchers reach their home.

### **CHORUS**

Then enthroned, our Lord, with thee, We shall reign eternally.  
Then enthroned, our Lord, with thee, We shall reign eternally.

---- *Hymns of Dawn 327*

**“Matt. 24:47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.”**

*Ruler Over “All His Goods” Not To Be Construed As Over ALL Truth* **“He [the Lord] shall make him ruler over all his goods.” This Scripture has been grossly misunderstood. Many brethren use as a cliché the statement that Pastor Russell was not only the seventh messenger and a steward with a worldwide ministry, but that nothing is due to be understood except what he said, that we should not search any further or have any other ideas, for he was ruler over all of the Lord's goods. The "goods" are considered to be all the truth. This very subtle error has bound many to close their minds to any reasoning on multiple subjects. Moreover, experience shows that many do not even know the Pastor's thoughts, as in the Reprints, for example, or even the Volumes.**

*Light Still “Shines More and More” – Not Padlocked* **“Stewardship” means a responsibility for publishing truths abroad, but not the whole Bible.** Several arguments support this statement:

“1. We are to live by *every* word that proceeds out of the mouth of God, and the Pastor *did not write on every Scripture* (Matt. 4:4).

“2. The Pastor *was not an apostle*. Although he had *the honor* of being *the special seventh messenger*, we *cannot equate his words* with those of the Apostle Paul or any of the other apostles. Therefore, in order for us to accept his writings, *they must be verified by a “Thus saith the Lord.”*

“3. In the second foreword to the *Fourth Volume*, he said that *the Book of Revelation would become meat in due season*. Originally he intended to write on Revelation, but he realized *that the book had not sufficiently opened to him as a whole and thus stopped with the Sixth Volume*. He firmly believed from the Scriptures that Revelation would become meat in due season, yet some brethren have ridiculed a study on Revelation *because the Pastor did not write on it*. They think the six *Volumes* are *all that we need*. Others say the Pastor *wrote on Revelation piecemeal* and **we have to put all of the fragments together**. Yet the Pastor even made the statement **that someone else would have to write on the Book of Revelation**.

“Pastor Russell *did not have a monopoly on the light of truth*. Proverbs 4:18 tells us that “the path of the just is as the shining light, that **shineth more and more unto the perfect day**.” The **light continues to increase**. However, the type of ministry the Pastor introduced is unique in that he literally *furnished the keys* to open up Scripture. His suggestions opened *so many topics*. He did not explain all the details, but he supplied *clues to enlarge* the concepts previously fettered by sectarianism.

*A Search For Understanding NOT To Be Denominated Pride* **“Sometimes the Lord blesses an individual who is yearning to understand a particular Scripture and has been applying himself diligently --even for years-- by opening that Scripture to him. The understanding is a reward, yet **others tend to regard it as pride**. Such an attitude is foolish, for *the Lord does reward* various individuals by **opening their** minds on certain points of truth, doctrine, etc. A systemized teaching is one thing (where *many* Scriptures are taken and woven into a pattern), but the clarification of individual Scriptures *is another matter*. Nourishing, succulent tidbits *are available to those who hunger and thirst for understanding*.**

*Collated and encouraged thoughts of others* **“The Pastor often collated or put forth thoughts *from other individuals*. For instance, one chapter in the *First Volume* is not his, and in the “Man of Sin” chapter in the *Second Volume*, he *freely took* the thoughts of [H.]Gratton**

Guiness. He said this himself, and he *encouraged brethren to send thoughts and comments* to him, many of which were published in the *Reprints*. Pastor Russell *introduced* the Great Pyramid as a Biblical subject, but John Edgar, coming along a little later, *used these keys* and *had far more knowledge* of the subject. The Pastor wrote that the Pyramid was a confirmation of the Bible and that it proved many, points of the chronology already advocated. He was the pioneer even though *the Edgar brothers corrected him on some points*. The *pioneer* in any great endeavor should be respected, be it Russell, Sir Isaac Newton, or whoever.”

*“Goods” The Thing Existing* “In Young's *Analytical Concordance* the word *“goods”* means *“the thing existing.”* In other words, the Pastor was **ruler over the truths existing in his time**, that is, **concurrent with his ministry**. In his day, the Pastor was the most dominant personality in connection with the Truth movement --and properly so.” -- *The Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 24,25*, 1984, Frank Shallieu

### LIBERTY IN CHRIST

**John 8:36** “If therefore the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

Our dear Pastor laid down strong groundwork principles of freedom in determination of truth. He writes that the Great enemy “attempted to *insist on a oneness* very different from what our Lord and the Apostles taught. This attempt was to have every recognized member of the Church *think exactly alike on every minutia* of Christian doctrine. This attempt finally developed into Papacy, where every matter of doctrine *was decided* by the popes and councils; and *every man* who desired to be *considered a Church member was obliged to accept* such decisions *fully* and *to profess* that such were **his** faith.” Speaking of St. Paul, he continues, “He urged a oneness such as naturally results from the *proper exercise* of the liberty which we have in Christ – *to search and believe the Scriptures*, and to grow in grace and knowledge, *every man being thus fully persuaded in his own mind*, and firmly rooted and grounded in the one faith, *as set forth in the Scriptures.*” (*Zion's Watch Tower, The Church of the Living God*, September 1 and 15, 1893, Reprint Page 1571) This is one of two most marvelous and outstanding and fundamental articles on freedom in Christ written by “that servant.” They set aside any or all organizational control and dominance of the Lord's people. The other article is “*Protestants Awake*” (*Zion's Watch Tower*, August 1889, Reprint Page 1134) which was my first publication in 1951. We feel very strongly concerning them as foundation articles and presently publish both.

In the course of our *previous* reign study, made in 1968, we showed from the Pastor's writings, that there were views projected by him of the reign of Christ from *past, present, and future* standpoints. The current *prevailing* view is **NOT AT ALL the exclusive** view that Christ “was present in 1874 **and THERE** began his **reign.**” That would be a *convenient* explanation as to the 1000 years establishing a “*sort of reign*” **yet WITHOUT** the *remaining* members, still here on the earth, unmarried, and **WITHOUT** being “*glorified together*” as “*The Christ,*” as is our hope. (Rom. 8:17) We have searched hard!

*Time.* Timewise, we will be 126 years (October), within the seventh millennium, *beyond* the date of **1874**. We see that the kingdoms of this world **are STILL** here and that the nominal church is becoming **INCREASINGLY** powerful -- especially **Papacy** (Great Babylon, the Mother). (Rev. 18:4) The Pope declares (in the year 2000), “Unity is very near!” Papacy has grown to over a billion-plus constituents – and has ended its conflicts in many areas – such as Poland and Russia -- through action with Gorbachev within the last decade. Presently the Catholic Church is *gaining ground* in the United States, **financially** through “Church-State

recognition.” Babylon did **not literally fall** in 1881, 1914, or 1918 with its *destructive demise*, as suggested in the late ZWT Reprint article “The Harvest not Yet Ended” and the Foreword to *Studies In The Scriptures, The Time is at Hand, Volume 2*. It is here with a vengeance! Since the Lateran Treaty of 1929, Papacy has **begun its rise** as the millstone and as the beast of Revelation 17:8-17, 18:21,24. The church system or Babylon is **not playing dead**. It is alive and well and is *still that beast of Daniel 7:11,19,21,22,27*. It must **yet be slain** and **burned** in the flames of anarchy. -- a later statement than *Studies in the Scriptures, Thy Kingdom Come, Vol. 3. (The Overland Monthly, pp. 83, 84)*

**The Nations** We look about the nations and note that, while there were two terrible wars (WW1 and WW2), largely in and by Europe, they had to do with shares of the world *market*. Germany was severely punished at Versailles, beyond the wisdom of President Wilson. The results of that austerity led to National Socialism and the *rise of a Catholic Hitler*. (See “*Hitler’s Pope – The Secret History of Pius XII*,” 1999, by John Cornwell). But the nations are still here and doing very well. Again, the wars had to do with financial resources. Some of the nations have them. Some do not. That *led to* the formation of the European Common Market in the year 1994 -- the brainchild of staunch French Catholic ruler DeGaulle. It is now called the European **UNION**. Its design is to *financially overpower* America to the glory of Papacy. It is the civil or clay (now *emerging 10 toes*) **UNION** of governments having the blessings of Papacy.

## **CHRIST’S PRESENCE THE TIMES OF RESTITUTION**

**Christ’s 1874 Presence**, we believe, **began that year**. We believe that Jesus Christ our Lord returned in October, 1874 at the onset of the 7<sup>th</sup> Millennium or “day of the Lord” and **will last the entire thousand years**. And, while he returned as a king, **he was not** a reigning king. **His reign did not begin there!** Also, that **there are various stages** of that presence (Greek - *parousia*) such as *epiphania* and *apokalupsis* at which time he would be revealed before the world when “every eye shall see (discern) him.” (Rev. 1:7)

What, then, of the Presence of Christ to bring about the *destruction* of the nations? Does 1914 mean the nations have been laid low and that both the **great time of trouble** and **Armageddon** have already begun? Does it mean that the image of Daniel 2 has perished **forever** or is now in process of being broken to pieces by a *partly established Christ and his Church* in heaven? **By no means!** What could be the answer to the dilemma? We will show in the succeeding message why this did not take place, why the reign of Christ **could not take place then** and when it will take place. (See, also. The Great Image of Daniel 2 later on in this study). There is, however, a **relationship** to the Second Presence of Christ and the Times of Restitution relative to 1874 forward. This we will now consider.

**The Times of Restitution** In Matthew 16:2 it says, “His face did shine as the sun and his raiment was white as the light.” And, of course, we do not think that our Lord was reigning back when that appearance took place. But, when we look at what was transpiring on the Mount of Transfiguration, there, we see that that in this vision of Moses representing the Old Testament Saints and Elijah the New Testament Saints. But in its fullest sense, the Elijah class **must first be complete**. Hence, our Lord’s charge to those special few disciples, Peter, James and John which were permitted to come along further with him. That they should tell the vision to no man until the Son of Man be risen from the dead.

In Reprint 5973, Brother Russell says, “And that Elias would truly come (that is come **in the future**) and restore all things. An event that has **not occurred because the Elias class is not complete.**”

**TIMES OF RESTITUTION RELATIVE TO THE PRESENCE  
NO EVIDENCE THAT CHRIST NOW REIGNS**

Some associate the fact, that because we are in the “times of restitution,” IS an evidence that the Great Restorer is **now** reigning. Not so! We think that this is an erroneous thought. First of all we observe that the Scripture says, that it is **times plural**. Therefore it suggests to us that we are **not** to expect **all features of restitution right away** just because, chronologically, we have entered into that period.

Acts 3:19-24 reads:“(19) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when **the times** of refreshing shall come **from the presence** of the LORD (Jehovah); (20) And he **shall send** Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: (21) Whom the heaven *must receive until the times* of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (22) For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A **prophet** shall the Lord your God **raise up unto you** of your brethren, like unto me; him **shall ye hear** in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. (23) And it shall come to pass, *that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed* from among the people. (24) Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

While **preliminary times of restitution blessings have indeed occurred** since seasons of refreshing were sent from *out of the face (Greek, Prosopon)* of Jehovah and since He sent His Son Jesus Christ *to be present* in earth’s atmosphere, those blessings are **not the realized blessings demonstrated by Jesus** at his first advent. (Luke 8:1) Being in the times of restitution **chronologically is one thing**. It is quite another to **suggest that we have seen** signs of [actual] restitution.

*Reprint 5973* again, the question is posed to Brother Russell, “Would it be proper for us to suppose that the world might begin to receive its share of restitution while some members of the Church are still in the flesh? Answer, **No**. This would be **an impossible thought**. The **whole merit of Christ is mortgaged** by the imputation, which Christ has made of his merit to the company consecrating during this age. This mortgage must be released fully, completely, before the New Law Covenant can be sealed **and put into operation** giving **restitution blessings to Adam and his race**. Hence, we are not to expect **any restitution**, either of the Ancient Worthies or others **until** the little flock shall have **passed beyond the veil**. And, the Great Company class shall have passed through its tribulation.”

And this would tie into this *sin offering* experience which **must first be complete before the blood can be applied** and before the [High] Priest **put on the garments of Glory and Beauty**. See *Tabernacle Shadows of the Better Sacrifices*.

You will note, too, in this particular citation, that Brother Russell identifies restitution **directly** with resurrection, i.e., the waking of the Ancient Worthies. Not that we have some modern conveniences at our disposal or time savers and that would be **the only indications** of restitution. He ties **actual restitution** blessings in directly with resurrection.

This idea or concept of **plural times** is similarly illustrated, as we see it, in connection with our Lord’s Second Advent. There are different things that transpire. There are also **seasons** of

*refreshing*. Just because we are in the time of his *Parousia* or “secret presence,” does not of necessity mean that the *epiphania* has occurred nor the *apokalupsis*, which are both Greek words which have **direct bearing** on this subject of the reign.

### THE "TIMES" OF RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS IS NOW IN INSIPIENT STAGES

It seems further clarification is needed for some. I would submit the following extract is from Pastor Charles Taze Russell's last sermon, 1916. To me there is *a distinction* in evidences of the *presence of Christ in 1874* and *the reign* of Christ (which I believe is a *future event* as delineated in this study, *The Reign of Christ--Present or Future?*) which reign some believe began in 1878, others 1878 and still others in 1914. I fully believe that Acts 3:19-23, which reads:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when *the times [seasons] of refreshing* shall come from the **PRESENCE** [out of the face] of the **LORD [Jehovah]**; and **HE** shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive **UNTIL** the *TIMES of restitution of all things*, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. Moses has truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the **LORD [Jehovah] your God** raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul which shall not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."

...is a Scripture having to do with the (1,000 year) **PRESENCE** of Christ and not at all with the reign which begins *when there are no more kingdoms left* -- "The kingdom [of Satan] of this world are [is] become the kingdom of our **LORD [Jehovah]** and of *His (ho Christos) "The Christ"* and He shall reign forever and ever." (Rev. 11:15)

Those things mentioned in the following article *are common benefits to all people NOW and also are BEGINNING the rolling away of the curse* placed on father Adam because of disobedience. Education, wealth (even more so today), labor-saving inventions and conveniences, safeguard and protections for human life (OSHA today), the eight hour day (for some 7 hours), labor now done with machinery (and computers), the sewing machine - still in use but more developed, a thousand household conveniences, sanitary and plumbing arrangements - the same only much better now, farm equipment, reapers, binders, mowers - much more modern and large scale vehicles, automobiles, gas engines -- even the electric car, desert and wilderness blossoming in harmony with modern university agriculture information including irrigation. Today the distribution of knowledge *has come to the Internet* - "the information highway." This *all relates to the increase of knowledge mentioned in Daniel 12*. You also have *medical knowledge which has advanced life* and investigation of the G-nome structure of the Genetic code of life's building blocks for *extension of life -- but not eternal life*

*All of these things have to do with the APPLIED knowledge of man* which God has *allowed and inspired* in fulfillment of Daniel 12 and conjunction with Acts 3 -- the *"seasons of refreshing"* and the *"times of restitution"--plural in both cases* -- meaning there is more than **ONE** time and more than **ONE** season.

In the spoken introduction to the *Photodrama "Creation,"* Introduction Parts 1 and 2, Br. Charles Taze Russell had this to say:

"The Photodrama of "Creation" presents the seven days of Creation, as seven epochs, each seven thousand years long; and the seventh day as not yet complete. In this view, one thousand years of the seventh day remain, during which, Earth and her population will reach the grand **PERFECTION** designed by the Creator. It is held that this final thousand years has already begun. To this fact is accredited the **GREAT PROGRESS OF OUR DAY - INTELLECTUALLY AND MATERIALLY.** In other words, the great seventh day of the Genesis account is itself a great week, each day of which is a thousand years long. The six already past have been man's work week of the struggle against sin under the curse pronounced in Eden. Now the Great Sabbath is beginning. It is as God has promised that the curse shall roll away **FROM BEFORE THE BLESSINGS** of Messiah's kingdom, for which so long we have prayed "Thy Kingdom come"; and of which we have so often sung as "The sweet bye and bye."

"...Let us keep in memory that Creation is not yet complete. The completed Creation will find our Earth **A PARADISE** and filled with a perfect and happy human family in harmony in harmony with the Creator. Thereafter there will be no more sin, sorrow, crying or dying. The curse of death will have been rolled away by the Redeemer, and the blessing of God will be upon all -- everlasting life; for all willful sinners will have been destroyed in the second death." (as transcribed by Br. Brian Kutscher).

*ACTUAL restitution or restoration of MAN* will be left to the kingdom age when the "Great physician" is once again in action under his beneficent reign then and the 144,000 co-regents *complete and with him in glory.*

John 14:12 *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he [ye] do; because I go unto the Father."*

These are *greater works than man could ever do*; for all that he can now do is "temporarily" extend life (a wonder for our time) by a kidney, liver or heart transplant-- but mankind still dies. While they are wonderful things, *they cannot do what the Great Physician and his co-regents invested with divine "miracle working" power can and will do in that kingdom to come.*

Matthew 17:11 "And he answered and said, Elijah indeed cometh, *and shall restore* all things." *Elias -- The glorified Christ.* -- *Studies in the Scriptures, The Time is at Hand,* pp.20, 254; *What Pastor Russell Said,* p.259:4 In that kingdom, in *the "restore all things" phase* (not talking about the Elijah class in the flesh [mentioned in *Studies in the Scriptures,* Study VIII, Vol. 2] in the *"turning of the hearts of the children to the fathers,* lest he smite the earth with a curse" -- *the time of trouble* which is *yet future since the Elijah class is still preaching.* The Elijah class *cannot now do this restorative work* of mankind, until they **ALL** along with Christ are invested with divine power.

The work that they will then do as one of the most important *"times"* of the "times of restitution" and will be of a *miraculous physical nature.* *The dead shall be raised* -- but not until the reign begins in the earth. There *death will cease from the present dying process* by all means

of death -- drowning, accident, disease or whatever. That is a miracle in itself. *Millions then living will never die* but go on to their "krisis" trial time. Praise God! *Those physically diseased then will be miraculously healed. Those suffering a loss of limb or dismembered part -- leg, arm, eye, etc., will have them miraculously restored.*

We quote the following from the Pastor, Charles Taze Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures, The Battle of Armageddon*, Volume IV, pp. 639,640 which we consider akin to "Close your eyes for a moment...":

"*No creature* of the redeemed race *will be too low* for divine grace to reach, through the all-powerful and blessed agency of the Kingdom. *No degradation of sin will be too deep* for the hand of mercy to fathom, to rescue the blood-bought soul; *no darkness of ignorance and superstition will be so dense in any heart* but that the light of divine truth and love will penetrate its gloom and bring to it a knowledge of the joy and gladness of the new day, and an opportunity to share the same by obedience. **NO DISEASE that can attack and pollute the physical system** will be beyond the **PROMPT** control of the **GREAT PHYSICIAN**. And *no deformity, or monstrosity, or superfluity, or redundancy, or mental imbecility* will be able to resist his **HEALING** touch."

That is what we mean by "restore all things" and the "main" work of restitution. Also, our definition of "preliminary" or **EARLY** restitution blessings comes **NOW** and "*actual*" *physical restitutional blessings when the kingdom starts* in earth. Earth is not yet a paradise. It will take the entire remainder of the millennium to complete that, including the "trees of life" at the end when all the wicked are destroyed in the little season at the close of the 1,000 years. Matthew 25:31 "But when the Son of man shall come in **HIS GLORY** and **ALL** the **HOLY** angels [the glorified church, *co-regents and judges of the kingdom age*] with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another." Matthew 25:31-34

Isaiah 60:13,14 "The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir-tree, the pine, and the box-tree together, to beautify the place of *my sanctuary* [Temple]; and I WILL MAKE THE **PLACE OF MY FEET GLORIOUS**...and they shall call thee The city of Jehovah, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel."

The following is from Pastor Russell's Sermons, 1916:

#### **THE MORNING COMETH--NIGHT ALSO**

***"Watchman what of the night? Morning cometh and a night also!--Isa 21:11,12***

#### **"THE DAWNING BEGAN IN A.D. 1874**

"Let us not stop now to discuss the darkness of the Night and its weepings. Let us awake, and take note of the fact that *the dawning of the New Age is already here*. We have been in it and enjoying many of its blessings for the past forty-two years. But these blessings came so *stealthily*, like a thief in the night, *that few recognize their import*. Some few have been calling attention to the fact that we have been in the Millennial dawn ever since the year 1874. Bible



chronology quite clearly teaches that the six thousand years from Adam's creation have ended--six great Days of a thousand years each, mentioned by St. Peter--"a Day with the Lord is as a thousand years." (2 Pet. 3:8.) ***Now the great Seventh Day, also a thousand years long, has commenced.*** We have been enjoying its dawning. It is to be a grand Day! What wonder if the dawning be remarkable!"

"It may surprise some to be told that the past forty-two years [from 1874] mean more to the world in increase of education, increase of wealth, increase of all manner of labor-saving inventions and conveniences, increase of safeguards and protections for human life, ***than did all the six thousand years which preceded them--many times over.*** The world has probably created ***a thousand times as much wealth*** during these forty-two years as during those entire six thousand years preceding. Yet these changes came so gradually that few have noticed them."

### FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY EVERYWHERE

"Forty-two years ago man labored from sun to sun; today we are ***rapidly reaching an eight-hour day.*** Forty-two years ago ***nearly all the labor of the world was done with sweat of face;*** today it is nearly all accomplished by machinery. Forty-two years ago the sewing machine was just reaching perfection; today it is everywhere indispensable. So with the thousand household conveniences! So with nearly all of our sanitary and plumbing arrangements!"

"So with the farm implements, reapers and binders, mowers, automobiles and gas engines, etc., etc., all belong to these forty-two years. In our cities our modern conveniences are wonderful! Solomon in all his glory never dreamed of such things as the poorest human being in America may enjoy!"

"Prophecies respecting streams in the desert and the wilderness blossoming as the rose are having fulfillment --not miraculously, but in harmony with the Divine order ***of an increased intelligence amongst men.*** Artesian wells are being drilled, irrigating canals constructed, not only in the western part of the United States and Canada, but also in far-off Mesopotamia. The results are marvelous. Land previously not worth fencing is valued today at \$500 per acre. The increase of knowledge has been supplemented by governmental arrangements for the distribution of that knowledge amongst the people."

"The soils of various localities are being analyzed at public expense, and the tillers of the soil are given knowledge as respects what kind of fertilizers are required to bring satisfactory results. Under these conditions it does not surprise us to know that as much as 156 bushels of corn have been raised to a single acre, and that 600 bushels of potatoes and over are not an uncommon record."

"Is not the Bible being fulfilled? Who can dispute these facts? What do they signify? We answer that they exactly corroborate the Divine declaration which describes our day: "Many shall run to and fro; knowledge shall be increased; the wise [of God's people] shall understand, and there shall be a Time of Trouble such as never was since there was a nation."--Dan. 12:4,10,1." -- *Pastor Russell's Sermons*, 1916, pp 793, 794

## THE SEVENTH TRUMPET THE SOUNDING OF THE JUBILEE TRUMPET

“(2) When *ye come into the land which I give you*, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD (Jehovah).” “(8) And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. <sup>9</sup>Then shalt thou *cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month*, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. <sup>10</sup>And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and *proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants* thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. <sup>11</sup>A *jubile shall that fiftieth year* be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather *the grapes* in it of thy vine undressed. <sup>12</sup>*For it is the jubile; it shall be holy unto you*: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field. <sup>13</sup>In the year *of this jubile ye shall return every man unto his possession*.” (Lev.25:2,8-13)

In considering this subject, it is important to make a distinction between the blowing of the Jubilee trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. The point here is that the Bible teaches that the trumpet was blown on the first day of each month. “In the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets.” (Num, 10:10) What this is saying is that through month one through month six *there were six trumpets blown*. In the seventh month at its beginning, the last of *seven trumpet blowings* took place. “It is sometimes called the Feast of Trumpets, a *shabbathon* of rest and trumpet blowing commemoration.” (*The Keys of Revelation*, (1993), page 276, by Brother Frank Shallieu). To Israel, *who entered the land of Canaan*, the Feast of Trumpets was significant in that it marked the seventh month *Tishri*, when the Day of atonement was to be observed. **Yom Kippur** (Hebrew *yom hakippurim*, “day of atonement”), in Judaism, holiday falling on the *tenth day* of *Tishri*, the *seventh month* of the Jewish *ecclesiastical* year. (**Yom Kippur** - *Microsoft Encarta 98 Encyclopedia*)

It was also significant since in that same month of *Tishri*, *but later than the first day*, the Trumpet of Jubilee was to be blown every fiftieth year *on the tenth day* of the seventh month. There is a very important distinction between the seventh trumpet blown *at the beginning* of the seventh month and the *Jubilee trumpet blown on the tenth day* of that same seventh month in the fiftieth year. The seven trumpets have special significance and *correlation to the seven trumpets of Revelation*, 8 to 11. They, each, would represent the message from God as given to the Seven Messengers. The one, therefore blown in the seventh month would represent message of the Laodicean Messenger. It is important to realize that the trumpet message of the messenger *is limited to the message* of each messenger and the church under consideration. When the work concerning that church is completed, *the message of that messenger is at an end*. It has accomplished its work. Currently the message from Pastor Russell, “*that wise and faithful servant*” (Matt 24:44-46) *to the church Laodicia* has progressed for, now, 122 years, this October, since 1878. The blowing of the Jubilee trumpet would be *an eighth trumpet message* suggesting that at the end of which message would come *a cleansed humanity*. The blowing of the Jubilee Trumpet was a *universal message and proclamation of liberty throughout the land of Canaan – to all the people thereof*. *The Jubilee message is a message specially adapted for the world of mankind in that kingdom age*. *It is a separate message*. That trumpet has *not yet sounded* and does not overlap the message of the seventh trumpet *as it did not in the type*. “It

would be unmistakably heard, understood, enforced and appreciated by all the inhabitants of the earth.” (*The Keys of Revelation, 1998, by Frank Shallieu, page 276:2*)

The Sabbath Day is here ***and it is the seventh day***. It is called a day of rest. It is on this same seventh thousand-year-day that the true church is to be taken home to its Canaan of rest in heaven. Yet, while here, the remnant church endures affliction. However, the true Church will have come out of Babylon ***before*** the winter time ***of the Sabbath (or seventh) Day***. “Then shall be great tribulation.”

Likewise, 2,499 years have past and ***we have entered upon the great 50x50 years*** corresponding to the 2,500<sup>th</sup> year, which according to *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 2*, would extend itself into ***the 1,000 years called “Earth’s great Jubilee.”*** Like unto the preliminary restitution blessings, we ***share in some of the preliminary Jubilee blessings*** preparatory to the time ***when mankind will be in the land when*** the kingdom reign begins. The atonement was for the sins of the people and the partially willful sins. When the sacrifices were completed, the Great High priest came out and blessed the people. “And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: ***and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people.*** <sup>24</sup>And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and ***consumed upon the altar the burnt offering*** and the fat: *which* when ***all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.***” (Lev.(23,24) ***Jubilee!***)

It should be remembered that restitution is mainly not for the Church but for the world. Brother Russell clearly states, “From the outline of God’s revealed plan, as thus far sketched, it is evident that His plan for mankind is ***restitution or restoration to the perfection and glory lost in Eden.***” “Is restitution Practicable?” He answers, “There is an abundance of room (in earth) ***for the ‘restitution of all’*** as ‘God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets.’” (Acts 3:21) *Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 1*, pages, 149,159,160. Restitution is primarily for the world. This is also shown in the last seventh of the passage leading to the “Queen’s Chamber” of the Great Pyramid, *Volume 3. The people were able to stand up.* The prophet ***has not yet spoken.*** (Rev. 22:17) Further Jesus said, “Elias truly shall ***first come, and restore all things.***” (Matt 17:11) Who is Elijah? The ***Gospel age Church*** in the flesh, whom when complete, together with Christ, ***will “restore all things.”*** Whoever will not hear that prophet will be cut off from the people. “That prophet” (complete) has ***not yet*** spoken to the world.

According to the description, the Jubilee trumpet, that sounded ***on the tenth day***, is ***later than*** the trumpet that sounded on ***the first day*** of the seventh month. The Sabbath or the 7<sup>th</sup> thousand-year had its beginning earlier as shown by the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month. Therefore, the later sounding indicates that ***the actual application of the Jubilee on behalf of the world would be when they had entered the land and the kingdom reign begins.*** We share in some of those blessings incident to that of the world. The ***Jubilee message is the Kingdom age message*** when ***the reign*** begins for the World of mankind and is ***not the present or 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet message to the Laodicean Church.*** The one message ends and the other begins.

## RAISING OF SLEEPING SAINTS NO PROOF OF REIGN BEGUN

Now as we have said, we agree that our Lord returned in 1874. We also agree with the thought of the of the sleeping Saints being raised in 1878. The ***receiving*** of a Kingdom, i.e., the first portion of the kingdom (the resurrected Saints), ***no more implies*** reigning ***then does being called the king imply reigning.*** As you know, God considered Jesus ***to be a king, the moment***

he was delivered here upon earth. Mankind on the other hand either has *no interest* or knowledge of Christ. And these two groups presently constitute over seventy percent and, if our numbers are correct, that is certainly an overwhelming majority of earth's populace. And of those remaining which bear the name Christian there are a large number which are nominal, i.e., in name only and still more with extremely distorted views about the nature of Christ. We might well say that even among Christians there are many *who know him not*, simply by virtue of their ignorance of the Scriptures, which they profess to believe in. So we have the vast majority of mankind either in total ignorance, believing in the false nature of Christ or atheistic.

Now continuing with this line of reasoning, neither can we say that **being in the throne** is conclusive or that **having power** is a final determining factor. You will recall how that our Lord at his ascension declared, "**all power is given** unto me in heaven and in earth." That is Matthew 28:18. And of course I do not think that any of us would suggest *that he was reigning back then because he was given power* back then. Even *exercising power* of it self is **not sufficient** to claim the reign of Christ has begun.

Reprint 532, September 1883. "While Christ **has all power** in heaven and earth for wise purposes, he **has not heretofore made use of** it permitting evil to reign and measurably to control the world and the Devil to be the prince of the world or order of things. But the time is **promised when he shall take to himself his great power and reign** exalting his Church and giving her power over the nations so that instead of as now being subject to the powers that be, she **shall rule the nations.**"

So, where does this leave us? We answer, it is one thing to be *called* king and even to receive a Kingdom and quite another to exercise the prerogatives that one has received. We think Brother Russell's suggestion in the Third Volume that the raising of the sleeping Saints *was his first "executive act" has led many to draw an incorrect conclusion.* And, although the Forewords were revised in 1916 *suggesting* that if he were to write them today, he would not change them, i.e., the Volumes. We would not think this to mean that he would **not** change **any thoughts** contained therein. We believe that he was suggesting in *a general manner* that the Volumes were worthwhile and as such were good for reading.

If one reads the Reprints or other writings, it is quite **easy** to find *variations of thinking* from that which is expressed in the volumes. Brother Russell was *sharing his analysis* and views on the various subjects that he was studying **as he was maturing.** He **never intended** that we should accept his views *as gospel*; but rather we might suggest that they might be used **as a baseline** for comparison and careful study. It is also important to realize that, in the Reprints, he typically goes into *more depth* on individual subjects and points that he does not do so in the Volumes which are in a sense written in a very broad way. There are very few that can make that claim among the Bible Students that they **have read all** of his writings. It behooves us to be careful what we say Brother Russell taught. It can be helpful certainly to cite quotations in the interest in trying to make a point. But it shows that there is a lot of room for making a false statement if we are not acquainted with all his writings.

## THE NATIONS ARMAGEDDON, THE BATTLE OF THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY

*What is happening to the nations?* I think that this is *very* easily answered by the expectations of the Pastor, whose belief was stated in *Studies in the Scriptures, The Divine Plan of the Ages, Volume 1*, "**The Day of Jehovah.**" Jesus *is* the *general of Jehovah, however,*

**ONLY as related to** the matter of Armageddon or the **complete destruction of the nations -- future**. It must be remembered that *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 4*, was originally called, **The Day of (Jehovah's) Vengeance**. The entire outline of that book, based on the Scriptures, leads to the **destruction of the nations IN Armageddon** and to the final establishment of the Kingdom of God. All of the elements stated in it were showing the reasons for the **coming judgments** of Babylon, both *civil* and *ecclesiastical*. (Rev. 6:10) Further, it shows that the elements, national and ecclesiastical, were being prepared for their destruction or end. And, that the FINAL end would come through *anarchy*, in the use of dissidents rising up and overthrowing all established government, law, and order through the use of what the Scriptures call “Jehovah's” “great army” -- anarchists. (Joel 2:11, ASV) Sporadic incidents, which have been going on for some time, are *neither* anarchy *nor* Armageddon. The Pastor, Charles Russell, pointed out the finality of that which should be called “*the great time of trouble*” which (*in his words*) “*in the full sense of the word, is anarchy.*”

**Armageddon** As to “Armageddon,” the composite elements of a Protestant and Catholic coalition and a working together with the state are clearly described in Revelation 13 and 16. The Pastor’s declaration was clear: Armageddon, “*not yet, but soon.*” (*Ibid.*, 1912 Foreword, xv) To date, we know of *no Armageddon*. Even the view of certain Protestants is the expectation of a *coming* Armageddon. The Bible clearly shows it to be a *future event*, so cataclysmic in nature as to completely erupt, overthrowing all nations in an earthquake of revolution. Such will cause *total* dissolution of law and order, *consummating the end* of this system of things. The Pastor pointed out in, *Volume 4*, now (since 1997) **100 years old**, that the final conclusion of *Armageddon* or *the Day of Vengeance* would be in “the time of Jacob’s trouble”, affecting Israel. (Jer. 30:7) It is **the final preparatory step** toward the establishment of that “Kingdom reign” of which reign we hope to be a part. See the end of *Volume 4*.

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE REIGN OF CHRIST AND THE REIGN OF JEHOVAH

Next, the point we think that needs to be carefully considered is the difference that needs to be expressed **between the reign of Christ and the reign of Jehovah** both of which we believe are described by Scripture. Now many brethren or at least some Brethren that we have talked to **do not make any such distinction**. Even **when it is brought to their attention they will not** separate the thought of **the reign of Christ** from the thought of **the reign of Jehovah**. But we think that this is **certainly in the Scriptures** and it is important to **make** this distinction as it is important to make **any** distinctions that are suggested by **the way the Scriptures are written** on any subject.

One very well known Scripture along these lines is found in Revelation 11:15. And this is where it reads, “And the *seventh angel sounded* and there were great voices in heaven saying the Kingdom of this world are become the Kingdom of our LORD and of his Christ and he shall reign forever and ever.”

There are some *corrections* that are expressed elsewhere in the Siniatic MS but the point we are interested in discussing in the King James is satisfactory. Now among the Bible Students, there is general agreement that the sixth angel or messenger was Martin Luther and the **seventh was Charles Russell**. Both notable individuals in the history of the Gospel Church, which brought forth, needed admonitions and observations and truth for the era in which they lived or

even subsequent to their day. The *general assumption* is that if the seventh angel sounded *then the reign* of Christ must have begun because that is how one *might quickly read* this passage. And at first look, it might seem *quite reasonable* to make such a claim or such a statement. But we have a number of instances in Scriptures, which show that the obvious **is not always** the correct understanding. Of course among the Bible Students we are always very careful to point out in connection with the study of hell that the parable of the rich man and Lazarus [**is not literal**], **I mean you cannot take everything by what the wording is** but rather you have to **look at the context** and see what the message is that is being conveyed **in the context of Scripture** – not to take everything in a very literalized sense.

And since we think there are definite **problems** associated with taking this text quite literally as many do, we think it is prudent to look a little closer and see if there may be an alternate understanding to the well accepted majority viewpoint. When we identify the remaining personages that are described in this verse, Revelation 11:15, we make an interesting observation. **LORD** as it appears in this verse unquestionably **applies to Jehovah**. This is easily proved from verse 17, which is a little further down. **His Christ** or His anointed must then either refer to Christ alone or **“The Christ,”** i.e., Jesus united with the glorified Church. We think both thoughts can be correct, i.e., Jesus is to be thought of as the anointed in the primary sense and the Church included in a secondary sense. The point, in our discussion here, to emphasize is that the reign spoken of here is **not** described as being **a thousand years long**. Nor is it even being described as **Christ’s** reign. Verse seventeen clearly indicates that **it is Jehovah’s reign**.

#### **GLORY OF THE LORD SEEN BY ENTIRE NATION OF ISRAEL SHAKING AND FIRE ON MOUNTAIN – ARMAGEDDON**

Consider Hebrews 12:18-27. “For ye are not come unto *the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire*, nor unto *blackness, and darkness, and tempest*, (19) And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (20) For they could not endure that which was commanded, *And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:* (21) *And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:*) (22) But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, (23) To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, (24) And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel*. (25) See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if *they escaped not who refused him* that spake on earth, much more *shall not we escape, if we turn away from him* that *speaketh* from heaven: (26) Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more *I shake* not the earth only, *but also heaven*. (27) And this word, *Yet once more*, signifieth *the removing of those things that are shaken*, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”

**The Glory Aspect** Colossians 3:4 reads, "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Or Isaiah 40:5: "And **the glory of the LORD** shall be revealed, and **all flesh shall see it together**: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." It is also of interest to note that this phrase, "the glory of the LORD" in most cases is used in connection with events **that were witnesses by the whole nation** of Israel - in regard to the Tabernacle and later on the dedication of the Temple. The Day of Atonement, which antitypically, is associated

with the Kingdom work of bringing man back into at-one-ment with God. And, particularly in connection with the burnt and sin offerings. And, in Leviticus 9:6, it says,

"This is the thing which the LORD (Jehovah) commanded that ye should do: and the glory of the LORD **shall appear unto you.**" Of special interest to us is that it was not until **after** the sin offering **was completed**. And that would include both the sacrifice of the LORD's [Jehovah's] goat which we see as picturing the Little Flock, the Church and the sending out of the [E]scape goat out into the wilderness, picturing the experience of the Great Company. They are reluctant to sacrifice, so as it were, they are forced into a situation of decision. It wasn't until after these two events in the type **were fulfilled** that the High Priest **removed his garments of sacrifice** and then **put on the garments of Glory and Beauty**. And that is cited in Leviticus 16:22,32. In other words, not until the Great Company has had its flesh forced into sacrifice at the hands of the fit man, which we believe would be the Adversary, would we expect for our Lord to antitypically **put on the garments of Glory and Beauty and begin his reign with the Church in glory.**

Reprint 5873, March 1916 "The sin offering will **all** be completed **before** the glorious **reign of Christ begins – his Church then being with him in glory.**"

*Inauguration of the New Law Covenant* Now another type that is given us is that of Moses when he returned to the people with the tables of the Law. In Exodus 34:29,30 it tells how that the skin of his face shown and they were afraid to come neigh unto him. This, in the antitype, would apply to the time *when the New (Law) Covenant would be administered* to the people. Again an event which we believe cannot take place *until after the sacrifice is complete* when the merit of that sacrifice can be applied to the people.

Reprint 4366 "The inauguration of the Law Covenant was accomplished *in a typical time of trouble. A shaking of the mountain.* The fearing and quaking of the people. The antitype of what occurred at Mt. Sinai will take place at Mt. Zion, the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, *as soon as soon as the election* closes and the new age opens. The *Great Mediator, Head and Body, veiled, hiding the glory* of the spirit condition will set forth the Law and sprinkle it with his blood of the **New Law Covenant** as Moses took the blood and sprinkled the **Old Law Covenant** in the type."

Then in Reprint 5878, which is dated April 1916. Brother Russell again discusses this thought of the sprinkling of the Law and subsequently all the people. And, further identifies that this will be accomplished by the Millennial reign of The Christ, Head and Body.

In Jude verses 14 and 15 it says,

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord *cometh with ten thousands of his saints,* (15) To *execute judgment upon all.*"

Now this reminds us of another Scripture back in Deuteronomy 33:1,2 "And this *is* the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. (2)And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came **with ten thousands of saints:** from his right hand *went a fiery law* for them."

## THE SABBATH DAY

*Jehovah of Sabaoth* Jesus is called *the Lord (even or also) of the Sabbath.* (Luke 6:5; Mark 2:28; Matt:12:28) He did miracles and healed *on the Sabbath day.* However, being Lord of the Sabbath is one thing and *being called the LORD Sabaoth* is quite another. They are two *different* words. In the case of Romans 5:29, we use the New World Translation because it states

God's name correctly as in the Old Testament reference. (Isa. 1:9) "Unless *Jehovah of hosts* (armies) had left a seed to us, we should have become as Sodom and we should have been made just like Gomorrah." And James 5:4, "The cries for help on the part of the reapers have entered into the ears of *Jehovah of Hosts*." The word **Sabbath** as defined by the Apostle *is rest* – God's rest. God's rest day. However the word used in the Old Testament for *hosts means armies*. This is generally applied to God and armies of other nations. He has legions of angels some of whom (12 legions) could have come to Jesus' rescue.

While we are Christian soldiers *down here*, "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal." We fight the world, the flesh and the Devil. We are not, while in this world, a part of the armies "which were (with him) in heaven." When it says in heaven, *it means in heaven – not one on one side and one on another*. This is quite different from the "sabaoths" of the past who were *used of God to defeat his enemies*. The Sabbath is *the Sabbath of rest*. The armies of Jehovah are *his armies*. We do *not equate* the armies of God or the use of the term Sabaoth with Revelation 19: 14 (14) "And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

*The King Of Kings And His Armies* The term "*armies*," like as with the U.S. or any other nation and that of Israel would *indicate divisions*. We are familiar with this as with *Israel's tribes*. (19) "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against *his army (singular)*." Christ's *army is one* but with *several divisions* as indicated here by the term *armies*. It is Christ who is doing Battle as king of kings. This is parallel with Revelation 17:14 which reads, "These shall make *war with the Lamb*, and the Lamb *shall overcome them*: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are called, and chosen, and faithful*." You see, in this battle *the Lamb is there with his glorified Church*. They are the "called, and chosen, and faithful" unto death. (Rev 2:10) While it is "Onward Christian soldiers" *down here* as we fight to be *overcomers*, "more than conquerors," if faithful *unto death* we will be privileged *to be with him in heaven* in the dissolution of this system of things. "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works *unto the end*, to him will I give *power over the nations*: (27) And *he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers*: even as I received of my Father." Rev. 2:26,27

We believe that we are in the Sabbath day, the day of rest, the 7<sup>th</sup> 1,000 year day. Referring to Psalm 90:3,4 we read, (3) "Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. (4) For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night." God's number is 1,000. It has been expressed that this is *an indication of the reign of Christ begun*. But, we still see men *being destroyed in death!* We *do not* see "and sayest, return, ye children of men" as far as the world is concerned. The study of Chronology is very extensive and accurate as we have mentioned. We believe the Chronology correct when it shows 4126 BC as the entrance of sin and 1874 AD correct in showing *the beginning* of the seventh millennium. We have *entered* the Sabbath or 7<sup>th</sup> thousand-year day since 1874. We have been in it for 126 years as of October, 2000. The Church is not yet glorified. The world is still under the dominion of Satan. We have not yet seen the resurrection of the world, which would begin the kingdom of God. They still wait for the hour when the Son of Man shall say, "Come Forth!" What we have seen by faith is the resurrection of the sleeping saints; but members of the Elijah class are *still here in the flesh*. According to verses 14 and 15 we are "glad" and God's "work appears" to us.

*The Thousand Years Is Not An Indicator Of The Reign Of Christ* because *the "Body" is not yet complete* and awaits the remnant church to be "cut of from the fold." Concerning the



Sabbath, Jesus said, (20) “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, ***neither on the sabbath day***: (21) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (22) And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” (Matt. 24:20-22) We are able to see then, that while ***we are*** in the *Sabbath* day, ***we are not in the “winter” of the great time of trouble. If we were here*** and in that great tribulation as believed, ***how could we be of the elect*** that would cut it short from human annihilation?

## THE GREAT IMAGE OF DANIEL 2

***The Image of Daniel 2*** We believe a number of statements, which can be found in our study, *The Smiting of the Image*, that the image of Daniel 2, while having its beginning in 606 BC, is ***without a specific ending*** date insofar as its ***dissolution*** is concerned. ***Nubuchadnezzar’s image*** pictured in Daniel 2 ***was not smitten in 1914*** or 1918 as is generally believed. There is ***no*** proper connection between Daniel 2 and Daniel 4. The two chapters are ***entirely*** separate!

The seven times mentioned in Daniel 4 are ***not*** 2520 years but ***apply only to*** the 7,000 years of sin’s entrance and ***end*** with man’s ***full recovery from sin***. Brother Russell correctly applies the tree scene (Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 2, pps. 93-98) to the 6,000 year period from the fall of Adam (4126 BC). However he does not take Daniel 4 to ***its full conclusion at the end of the seven times*** there which would be 2874 AD or “Seven Times” or 7,000 years complete. ***“And at THE END OF THE DAYS*** (i.e., those 7 literal years – each year then representing 1,000 years) I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and ***mine understanding returned unto me***, and ***I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion***, and his kingdom *is* from generation to generation” (Dan. 4:34) The kingdom will be turned back to God ***at the immediate beginning*** of the 8<sup>th</sup> thousand ear day.

The image of Daniel 2 illustrates ***Gentile powers***. The Gentile ***powers are still here and Satan is*** still called the god of this world. The ***last power*** pictured in the image is ***Rome***. Rome in its development ***became*** Rome Papal. As such ***Rome exists among us today***. It is identified in Revelation 17:18 as ***“that Great City”*** (***“Babylon the Great”*** – even now in size) where the woman sits upon ***seven hills*** or “mountains” which Rome has. The ruler or king of Rome is Satan. His representative on earth is the Pope who is a modern day “false Christ” and king of Rome – the Roman Pontiff. (See historical documents) Babylon has ***not yet fallen*** in destruction! (Rev. 18:16-21) “The ten toes” relative to the “ten horns” in Revelation 17:12-14 ***are not yet fully developed*** as it ascends from the pit of the “beast” -- 1929 to the present time. (Rev. 17:8)

There are several contingent factors in Daniel 2: The “stone,” representing God’s true Church, ***must be fully cut out and raised to glory*** as shown on the Chart of the ages. It was ***not completed in 1881***. It is still here. (1) “The God of heaven” (Jehovah) ***must set up a kingdom in its entirety***. The emphasis is ***NOT*** on the ***setting up*** of the kingdom but upon ***being set up***. ***“When complete, when entirely cut out, it will smite and destroy the kingdoms of this world.”*** The ***entire image***, Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome ***will be crushed at once by the stone*** in ***“the Armageddon crash”***– by the church in glory. (*Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 1, 254-256; ZWT Reprints, page 5854*) Recommended reading (since there is no room here for elaboration), for further details on Daniel 2, 4 and 7 see our booklet study, *The Smiting of the Image*, (1958), *Zion’s Tower of the Morning*. That study along with this one shall, in the near future, be published on our web site: <http://www.zionstower.com/>

## THE GREAT IMAGE OF DANIEL AND THE REIGN

Brother Russell also discusses the vision of the "great image" that Nebuchadnezzar saw. And that particular account is found in our Bible in the second chapter of Daniel, verses 29-45. And you will recall that the image was one of the **four** earthly kingdoms of Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome. And each of them is pictured by different portions of this great image that Nebuchadnezzar saw. According to this same article that we had started with *The Overland Monthly*, (1910) on pages 82,83 (*BSL CD, pages 88,89*), it says:

"During the period of their domination, i.e., these Gentile powers were represented in this great image. Under Divine guidance, a stone has been cut out of the mountain without hands - without human authority or power. That stone is **the Church of whom Jesus is the head and Apostle, and all the Saints of this age of every denomination are members**. This cutting out of it will soon be completed. **Not until the Church shall have been completed. Not until the last member shall have been changed from earthly to heavenly conditions. Not until the glorified Christ shall have taken unto himself his great power to reign, will this heavenly power be hurled against the image. It will smite the image upon its feet - its present development - Christendom, so called. That impact is prominently noted throughout Scriptures as a "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation."** Such is the graphic description given us of **the end** of Gentile governments. But these also, be it remembered, were recognized and authorized by God to occupy the seat of government and hold in check human affairs, **"until he comes, whose right the kingdom is"** and whom it will be given - **the Christ, the head and the elect Church, his members."**

*God's Kingdom Rulership Begins With Christ And The Church Shown in Daniel 7* The article continues on to tie in Daniel 7:14 as a closing argument for this line of reasoning [Page 83, last seven lines]. We will read a few verses from that account in the Book of Daniel. (Daniel 7:13,14,18)

"(13) I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like **the Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came... (14)And there **was given him dominion**, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. (18)But **the saints** of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."

And repeated a little further on in this same chapter in Daniel 7, we find it goes on to say that:

"Until the Ancient of Days came and judgment **was given to the Saints** of the Most High. And the time came that **the Saints possessed the Kingdom**. And the Kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the Saints of the Most High, whose Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." (Verses 22,27)

Now in reading these texts, I think that one must acknowledge that the **Saints** are described **every bit as much as recipients** of that Kingdom and dominion as our Lord is. Of course, we understand that it would be in a similar sense as a queen sitting beside her king. And that he, i.e., the Lord, the King would be in a position of **greater authority** and responsibility.

Once again, another quote from *Reprint 5575* and this is dated November 1914.

"This stone Kingdom is quarried out of the earth by the Lord. It is at first insignificant in size and it seems to the world as powerless. But, **as soon as set up in power**, this Kingdom **will**

**smite the great image** of earthly rulership and grind it to powder\* in the coming time of trouble and the wind shall carry it away. Nothing shall be permitted to do violence or to work injury throughout all God's holy Kingdom after it shall have been established."

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**It should be clearly noted that the expression “grind it to powder”\*\*\* is nowhere to be found in the Daniel 2 text and, therefore, does not present a proper understanding of this Scripture. It is correctly described in the following: “It will smite the image on its feet -- its present development [in our view, the *finally developed or formed toes or the future Church union with the state*] -- "Christendom" so-called. That *impact* is prominently noted throughout the Scriptures as "a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation." (Overland Monthly, 1910, Page 83) “It is upon the feet of this Image that the Armageddon crash of God's Kingdom is pictured as falling --grinding the entire image to powder.”\*\* (Zion’s Watch Tower, R. 5854, February 15,1916)**

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**Has the Kingdom been set up in power?** Of course one making any observations of current events would be **hard pressed** to answer that one affirmatively. Unfortunately, we haven't the time to study the subject in depth. But we believe that the Scriptures clearly identify the Lord with his "Little Flock" as the Kingdom. You remember, our Lord taught the disciples to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done." Again, we think that this is an association with the **completed Church coming in power and glory.**

Now again, with this article that we just quoted from, we note two other premises that have been given us. Again, we won't even be covering these in any depth. But namely that the image will **not** be smitten and **that the time of trouble will not occur UNTIL the Church is glorified.** There are other citations for this subject, but we will don't have time to reference them.

**King David and King Saul An Illustration Of When The Reign Begins** David was selected by Samuel as Jehovah’s choice to succeed King Saul as King. He was quietly anointed by Samuel, the Judge of Israel, **seven years before he assumed the office as king.** King Saul’s fall from Divine favor was when he who was meek and submissive in the beginning became proud and lifted up. He was also jealous of David whom he considered a competitor in his accomplishments and a favorite of the people – “Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands.” (1 Samuel 18:7,8) He sought to put David to death by the javelin attempt on his life and finally in his last dogged pursuit. (1Samuel 18:11) “And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not; for who can put forth his hand **against Jehovah’s anointed**, and be guiltless? <sup>10</sup>And David said, As Jehovah liveth, **Jehovah will smite him**; or his day shall come to die.” (1Samuel 26:9-11 ASV) That as long as Saul’s reign as King would be, **he could not bring it to an end before the time.** God had **permitted that** reign to be. As the Pastor put it, “To have made an assault upon him **would have been to attack the Almighty’s arrangements.**” (R.3239:3)

What might we think of this relative to the pending Reign of Jesus Christ? Saul might represent the position of Lucifer *who was at that time in favor with Jehovah God*, his Creator and to whom he was a Son in the likeness of much beauty and glory. He is described in Ezekiel 28:14 ad “the anointed cherub that covereth.” He, in the beginning, possessed the Holy Spirit of God. Lucifer **fell from the favor of Jehovah** God becoming *proud of heart* as described in 1Samuel 28:6. King Saul would then represent Satan a King of his Kingdom by usurpation. David would represent Jesus Christ, who “humbled himself and was obedient unto death even to the death of

the cross.” (Philp. 2:8) The Pastor describes Jonathan whose soul (be-ing) “was knit with the soul (be-ing)David” as representing the Ancient ones. (1Samuel 18:1) Christ is spoken of as David, sitting *upon his throne* and being *king over the whole earth* in that day.

*The seven years of as Jehovah’s anointed* waiting to be the “King of the whole earth” might well represent the entire Gospel age and the “seven” stages of the Christian Church as mentioned in Rev. 2 and 3. During this time, he was recognized by his close associates and by Jehovah who anointed him at Jordan. He was *exalted as king during the ten days* before Pentecost – set on Jehovah’s “holy hill of Zion. (Psalm 2:6) It was at the end of those seven years that Saul’s career as King of Israel (representing Satan, the Prince or King of this world) was brought to an end. Satan is *cast into the pit as fully bound not gradually* – but at once. He is not chased about as a dog. It has been suggested by some that this would be a good proof that Christ began his reign in 1874. We do not believe that to be the case. Quite to the contrary; the *seven years of anointing as king would be the Gospel age* rather than the beginning of a Millennial reign over earth in 1874. The Gospel age has not ended. The Gospel is still being preached. The collective church has not yet been exalted to kingly power *nor are they now reigning with him*.

The evidence is this: that both Christ and his completed and then married Church *will begin their reign when Satan is bound in the future and cast into the pit*. Revelation shows quite clearly that the “kingdom of this world,” and not “kingdoms” (as some seem to prefer because of 1914) as in the Greek, singular (Satan’s Kingdom), *will become the Kingdom of Jehovah* and of *His the Christ*. David, who represented *the Church in the flesh*, will be the David class in glory. They will begin *their future reign* together with the greater King David, The Lord Jesus Christ. Together and completed, they shall reign over Israel – the whole world of mankind. The illustration is: Two Kings *may not reign* over the world at the same time. The one must be completely removed before the other begins to reign. Br. Russell correctly stated the matter when he said, “*The full number of the Elect must be found and be glorified by the resurrection “change”--because “flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.” (1 Cor. 15:50) Then the dominion of the world will be assumed. The glorified One will ask of the Father, and He will give Him the heathen [nations]for His inheritance and the uttermost parts [farthest reaches] of the earth for His possession. “He will rule them with a rod of iron. As the vessels of a potter shall they be broken into shivers.” (Psa. 2; Rev. 2:27) Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 3, Thy Kingdom Come, 1916, Foreword, P. iv*

*Ruling Houses Gone with the Wind* In reality, *God’s kingdom is NOT YET set up in heaven* or empowered until ALL the saints are exalted in the divine nature with Christ. While the sleeping saints were raised, we believe in 1878, they neither were *in any sense divinely empowered* nor were they “glorified together.” (Rom. 8:17) The “set up” or *completed time element* of the saints is *well beyond* all those European ruling houses – though some still exist. (*Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia, ’98*) The toes or *last vestige* of that image *are not yet fully formed*. The image *is not yet completed*. The completed toes of the image will be *finalized* in *Church Union* with the state. (Rev. 16:13-16; Rev. 17:11-14) *Since the toes are not yet fully formed*, this would reject those so-called ruling houses of Hapsburgs, Hohenzollerns, Savoy and etc., as believed *by some* to be fulfillment as toes -- of “in the days of *these* (pre 1914) kings.” They had *their part in dissolution* with the “wind” phase of 1Kings 19:11,12 – as *an ongoing event* until the War, phase 1, *is completed* leading next to phase 2, the earthquake (Armageddon upheaval or revolution) mentioned later.

(2) It has to do with the *breaking or destruction factor* both in the **IMMEDIACY** and the *removal of ALL those kingdoms at that time*. The image *will be destroyed when completed*. (3) It

relates to *the kingdom class*, which, by the Holy Spirit, are cut out of the earth (in death) **as a COMPLETED, organized** group of both Christ AND the Church -- as a “stone” cut or chiseled out, **RAISED to glory**. When **glorified in the divine nature**, it will **thereby** be “BACKED by divine power.” (R.5716) This is what the Pastor referred to when he said that the “smiting of the image **is near at hand.**” (R.5673)

It should be remembered that the Second Chapter of Daniel was dealt with contextually and with **great detail** in *Studies in the Scriptures, The Divine Plan of the Ages, Volume 1*, in pages 254-256, and in the 1916 *Zion’s Watch Tower* commentary. (R.5854) The defining groundwork was clearly laid out in *Volume 1, pages 254-256*. The Pastor’s final statement on the matter of the “image” (which some like to refer to as “**for public consumption**),” **truly** declare **the PRINCIPLES of interpretation** of that Scripture (Daniel 2). Those principles **cannot be mitigated because of such denials**, as to its **TRUE** application. In that February 1916 *Zion’s Watch Tower*, our Pastor made the statement that it would be this same “**ARMAGEDDON CRASH**” that, while falling upon **the feet of that image** (now in the process of forming), would completely **and at once**, destroy it. “A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and **behind them a desolate wilderness**; yea, and none hath escaped them.” (Joel 2:3) Daniel puts the results of that impact as this: “And **became like the chaff** of the summer threshing-floors; and **the wind carried them away**, so that no place was found for them.” – nothing left! (Dan. 2:35)

**Four Kingdoms** Note that in all of these *four* kingdoms, *each* as Babylon, **had its own king** or representative. There are **only four** kingdoms and **not** five. The clay-iron factor is an *extension* of the iron; both are Rome. It should be remembered that Rome has but **one principal head** today. That it is none other than **the Pope**. He as *Princeps* (L.) **heads** the Roman Empire as **King of Kings** and, in Rome, he wears the crown to prove it. There are but four principal imperial kings in this scene – not 14 or 15. The destruction includes **its entire four principal** member Kingdoms and their kings still in existence, viz., Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The ten toes as kings or rulers in the future would be subservient to the *Princeps or King of Kings, the Pope*. (Rev. 17:12) America would be included as part of Rome with its dual constituency of the iron (civil ten toes) and the clay (of Papacy). It is clearly stated “the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, (were) **broken to pieces together**” (Dan. 2:35) and that “it shall break in pieces and consume **ALL these KINGDOMS.**” (Dan. 2:44) Therefore, it included **all four empires** and **their kings**. “In the days of **these kings** (while they still exist) shall the God of heaven **set up** a kingdom.” (Verse 44)

**Not Yet But Soon** The dissolution of *those* kingdoms or empires **has not yet taken place**, as **is widely touted**; though two of four names have changed. In our day, Rome and its coalescent *European UNION* and *Council for Security and Cooperation in Europe* member nations under *Papal domination*, have become yet **STRONGER**. The Pope demands the “*rich* and **POWERFUL.**” (Mexico, spring 1999) There are about nine events of this past year that give evidence to *Papacy’s rise in power*, not **only** in America but also in Europe, Ireland, Mexico, and the Americas; their numbers grow. Catholic laws violate the U.S. Constitution regarding *separate church and state*. The toes are *in formation*. The *image* is **not yet complete**. Papacy **is being** raised to power. (Rev. 17:8,11,12-14; Rev. 18:21)

This subject is relevant to the “*time of the reign*” factor; Armageddon has **not yet come**. The kingdom of God **has not come**. The stone **has NOT become “the mountain”** and is **NOT**, in any sense, “**beginning to grow**,” as the Society and some others have taught. The reign **OVER that kingdom** has **not yet** begun. (Psa. 72:8) In the Pastor's day, the *original rendering* of Hymn 171

was: "The Gentile Times are ending *for their kings have had their day, and with them sin and sorrow will forever pass away.*" In editions published *after his death*, this was changed to "the *Gentile* times *HAVE ended.*" The "Divine right of kings" is a *theory* at best!

**Gentile Times Not Related To The End Of The Nations** First, let us keep in mind, the Gentile times are related not to the *end of the nations* but to the *dominion OVER ISRAEL! That* "national" *2520-year (Lev. 26:18,21,24,28) domination and trampling over Israel ended in 1914.* Statehood *recognition* began from that date! Such hymnbook theology would *seem to be* supportive of "their kings HAVE had their day" *then. Not so!* "Sin and sorrow" have *not* yet passed. And the kings, potentates, presidents, etc. (or *whatever you would call them*) are *very real* and *VERY present* with *ALL their powers* -- especially when the "KINGS of the earth" join in with "the *beast and the false prophet.*" (Rev. 16:13-16) The Dark Ages revisited! Later on, *civil* kings will "stand afar off," after the *religious* systems' destruction.

### THREE OVERTURNINGS AND "HIM WHOSE RIGHT IT IS"

**Ezekiel 21. The Overturnings and "Him whose right it is."** We now speak of the Scripture so commonly referred to that is found in Ezekiel 21:26,27. "*Remove the diadem, take off the crown. I will overturn, overturn, overturn it. It shall be no more the same, until he come whose right it is and I will give it him.*" We know **who** lost the crown or diadem. It was **the Nation of Israel**. This was because they were unfaithful, as a people, to their **committed COVENANT** with Jehovah God. (Exo. 19:5,6)

The question is: What ARE the overturnings? We believe that the overturnings are stated in "**three**" and **not four** times, as some would suppose. There are **only three**. To illustrate this, we refer to the "**three wars**" of Nebuchadnezzar and the **final conflict or third war ended in the destruction** of that *typical* kingdom of God that existed for *almost* 1000 years from its inception. In conjunction with *their rejection of Christ*, in AD 33, there were also *three major wars* of Rome. The *third war* ended in AD 135, marking the *beginning* of the Diaspora.

God's decree against Zedekiah is pronounced. Ezekiel 21:25-27: The application **is given** that God overturned these Universal Empires and that when our Lord returned in 1874, the crown and diadem **were given to him at that time**. And, the re-gathering of Israel of Israel **commenced**. This re-gathering **is then tied** to Ezekiel 20:33.

**Fury Toward Israel Not A Kingdom Reign Over Israel** Ezekiel 20:33,34 says that, "(33) As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and **with fury** poured out, will **I rule over you**: (34) And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out will I rule over you."

At first glance, this **might seem** to be a fairly conclusive argument, *that* from, we'll say from 1878 plus or minus onward, the reign began. Because many of us **do appreciate** our Lord's invisible second **presence as of 1874**, if one were to take this argument **on the surface**, it would be very easy to **conclude** that the reign had begun. *However*, if we turn to the Book of Jeremiah chapter 21:3-5. We have very similar language used in connection with Zedekiah's overthrow. We will quote that Scripture, It says,

"Thus shall ye say to Zedekiah: (4)Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands, wherewith ye fight against the king of **Babylon...** (5)And I myself will fight against you with **an outstretched hand** and with **a strong arm**, even in anger, **and in fury**, and in great wrath."

The gathering out spoken of in Ezekiel 20, we believe is that of the Holy Remnant which is an event also to take place **in the future**. There is another **problem** that arises when one applies the **overturning to the Gentile Kingdoms**. That **there are four** Gentile kingdoms and **three** overturns. We think it is hard to make a direct correlation when there is a **miscalculation** there. Four and three **do not equal** one another. The alternate, of course, which we would **suggest** is that the overturns relate to the destruction of Jerusalem and the three dates that would **seem to fit** well with this particular prophecy are: (1) **606 BC** when Zedekiah had this experience and was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon. (2) And then later on in **70 AD** you recall there is Titus' siege of Jerusalem and (3) **finally** in 135 AD where Hadrian had a conquest of Jerusalem. Then, in that same overturn, overturn, overturn account in Ezekiel 21:25, here is a phrase which says, "*It shall be no more.*" That, we believe would **apply to the great Diaspora** that occurred subsequently.

When trying to understand where Brother Russell was coming from, we find in the first two of these particular articles, i.e., *The Overland Monthly* pages 82 and 83 and elsewhere, that **he thought** 1914, 1915 there about **would see all these events fulfilled**. Of course also, the WW1 had broken out so he would be looking at all these various signs around him and trying to **analyze** them and put them in proper **perspective**. But, obviously, we have a **great advantage of hindsight** and see that it clearly **did not happen** as expected. If the Church **had been** set up in power and the time of trouble had come, **then we've missed it**.

*The Three Wars That Are Related To Our Day* Simply put, the relevance to us, in our day, is in this wise: Under the same rulership Rome (the iron), of the "great image" picture, conjoined with Papacy (the clay), has **already** experienced two wars (WW1 and WW2). We believe this is the way it was with those two incidents of *three wars* pertaining to nominal fleshly Israel. So **it shall be** with *nominal spiritual Israel*. Interestingly, it was in **the third year** of Adam's life that disobedience entered and swift judgment followed. God speaks once, twice; **but the third time comes destruction**. (Job 33:14,17; Psa. 62:11,12; 1Kings 18:34; especially Ezek. 21:14) This is the Scriptural premise used over and over again. The Third World War will lead to or be lapped upon with **the battle of Armageddon**.

*1Kings 19. Wind, Earthquake, Fire, and Still Small Voice*. Here is the relationship of the wars called a *wind, singular*. Consider the *futuristic preview* of 1Kings 19 relevant to the Elijah class. There **will be** a WW3, so often talked about in today's news. This, too, would harmonize with the Pastor's remarks that (1) **Wind (singular)** War 1, 1Kings 19:11,12 (since *distended to two* and a *potential* third) would be **literally LAPPED UPON** by (2) (**the earthquake**) revolution. This refers to **the "great earthquake,"** which will cause the rifting *upheaval of nations*. Thus it will lead to their **consumption**, as the Pastor tells us concerning Revelation 16:18. That, *in turn*, he says, would be **lapped upon** by (3) the **fire of anarchy** – "**the great time of trouble**" in its **true** sense. (Dan. 12:1) The expression *lapped upon* means **to immediately follow** the thing preceding. His definition *harmonizes* with these Scriptural accounts. Sometimes it is necessary to *sort through* difficult areas to arrive at a *good* understanding of the Bible -- our last or **final** RESOURCE. This Revolution, (Rev. 16:18) is **not** governmental **change** from one **form** to another **form** (such as Communism, etc.), or back again, but **a violent upheaval** towards its COMPLETE destruction the sense of *Volume 4, The Battle of Armageddon*, which describes **preparing** the elements and the **finality** of Armageddon.

*2Peter 3:7-11 Seeing All These Things Shall Be Dissolved* What does this mean? Should we understand this to mean "seeing that all these things **are being dissolved**?" We do **not think so** for these reasons: While St. Peter refers to the thousand years as related to the day of the Lord,

this **does not prove** that the fire as described therein as a cataclysm would transpire **immediately** in 1874. To the contrary, in numerous references Br. Russell says the “heavens and the earth which are now by the same word are reserved unto fire.” (2Pet. 3:7) He further comments: “A great cataclysm of trouble, **anarchy, called fire, will mark the termination** of the present dispensation.” (*Expanded Biblical Comments*, p. 739) “The heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.” (2Pet. 3:10) Other comments are: “The melting down **will begin in the overthrow of the religious systems.**” (R5735) The word is **shall melt**. “With fervent heat. The earth also...” He continues: “Shall take fire.” (SM422:3) “**After** the heavens are on fire.” (SM423:3; 5863:3; 5349:1) “It will be **after the fall of Babylon** – the great distress of the nations **shall come.**” (R5348:6; 5864:1) “Shall be burned up” “Overthrowing all law and order in anarchy.” (R5349:1)

Finally we come to “**shall be dissolved.**” It has been said that the Greek translation should read “**are being dissolved.**” The Pastor’s comments are this: “**Will soon give place** to the better order.” (B168) “**Shall all go down.**” (R3215:6) “**Shall so shortly be dissolved.**” (R1914:5) “We see their **passing away is just at hand** in this our day.” (R5735:5; 3215:6)

We must then conclude the following: The fire **is the fire of anarchy**. Though the day of the Lord, is a thousand years which **has already begun** in 1874, it does by not by any means indicate that world-wide anarchy took place back then but **is to take place after the “great earthquake”** of Rev. 16 **when Babylon falls**. That **has not happened yet**. World-wide anarchy, which is the fire mentioned, is **not a sporadic fire** but is **world-wide conflagration**. The **fire will begin when Babylon falls**. That will be **when all the saints have come out**. The call yet goes on, “Come out of her my people.” (Rev. 18:4) Also, **after Babylon’s fall the Kings of the earth or earthly governments will be next to be consumed by fire.**

We would also conclude that “shall be dissolved” would be the more correct application in view of the context in which St. Peter speaks. 1). The question is, “What manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conduct?” Our behavior will determine, as Jesus said, our being “accounted **worthy to escape** those things coming upon the earth.” The escape is literal. The true **Church will not be here** when anarchy reigns. 2). These things are **not now dissolved** in the sense of the fire upon the heavens and the earth. They are **not dissolved or destroyed**. We live very well in the present law and order society. 3). The fire is the fire of what Br. Russell referred to as “**world-wide anarchy.**” **This has not happened**. If it had, we would all be in process of consumption. 4). If this should read, “are being dissolved,” according to the Greek, the application would be by St. **Peter to his day and not to ours** down here at the end of the age. Or, the dissolution would have to be **from his day** down throughout the entire Gospel age. We **do not** think that “are being dissolved” is the correct intent of 2Peter 3:11.

**Back to Ezek. 21. Who is He, “whose right it is”? And, When is it given Him?** If we believed Judge Rutherford, we would say it was the year **1914**. He had the image **completely smitten**. the “new nation **born,**” was (the modern day Watchtower society) born or **exalted**, and he said **Christ, there, began to reign. Deliverance, 1925**. This he reiterated in 1922 at a Cedar Point, Ohio, Convention. He **shouted**, We must **Advertise! Advertise! Advertise! The King and the Kingdom!** -- **since 1914**. Some Bible Students, later active, were there in 1922 and heard him. It should be remembered that it was a period of more than 30 years, **before the remainder** of the 75% who were with the *Society* left, some taking **excess baggage views** with them. Br. Russell stated, “Errors and superstitions **die hard.**”

**The King And The Kingdom** In an early and in a late Reprint, the following statements were made:



“Nevertheless, both the King and the Kingdom--for which the King taught his Church to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven"--are coming. *In fact, they are here;* and present troubles in church and state are the results of influences emanating from that King and Kingdom.” R.1691

“Nevertheless, both *the King and the Kingdom are not only coming, but are here;* and the present troubles and shakings in church and state, and the general awakening of the people are the results of influences emanating from that King and Kingdom.” R.5916

Obviously the Pastor’s expectations were that the war would distend to social revolution (Rev. 16 great earthquake) and finally be lapped upon by anarchy. He believed that these things would wind up by 1918, the system of things would go down and that God’s kingdom would thus proceed in earth. It was an excellent analogy; but *it did not happen that way*. However, his analysis of 1Kings 19:11,12 was helpful to understand prophetic events today. (See above) Eighty-six years have passed since 1916.

While it is true, as already mentioned, that **the King has come** at his presence in 1874, yet it is *not true that the Kingdom* for which we pray, “Thy Kingdom Come, *Thy will be done on earth,*” *has as yet come* to earth. The kingdom of heaven *is still being set up*. It is *not yet* complete. When complete (all the saints there) it will impact these kingdoms and they shall be blown away with the wind like fine dust and found no more. Note references to Revelation 20 – “*the*” *thousand years* (name of the age) and “a” thousand years. It is little later *during the thousand years* that the King *along with* that kingdom of heaven *composed of all the saints* – not one lacking – *is completely set up* that it shall both rule and uplift the world of mankind. Revelation 11:15 *has not yet transpired*. That verse 15 should be more correctly rendered, “‘The kingdom of this world is become *the kingdom of our LORD*, and of His Christ’ (Sinaitic MS). The statement ‘*our Lord*’ *refers not to Jesus*, but *to Jehovah*; and the following designation ‘of his Christ’ [Diaglott.Gk. “of his the Christ” Ed.] applies primarily to Jesus (the head) and secondarily to the Church (his body). A paraphrase would be: “The kingdom of this world is become *the kingdom of Jehovah*, and of Jehovah’s *Christ [head and body]*.” Peter’s testimony substantiates this conclusion: The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together *against the Lord, and against his Christ (Anointed)*. (Acts 4:26,27; Psa. 2:2)” (*The Keys of Revelation*, 1993, Page 276, Frank Shallieu)

We deal with the Scripture Ezekiel 21, under consideration, because of its *imminent* relation to the *time* of the “reign of Christ” and his “*glorified*” Church. We would not have a problem with this Scripture if the “he whose right it is” *were ONLY Christ* at his presence. Not to be misunderstood, we again state that *Christ’s presence TOOK PLACE in 1874* at the beginning of the *7th millennium* in that year and that chronology is *without fault*. (See our Charles Redeker’s detailed studies on *True Bible Chronology*, 1971, *The Biblical Prophetic Year*, 1983 and *The Biblical 70 Years [of Desolation]*, 1993).

Again, Pastor Russell also defined this Scripture “Until he come whose right it [*the kingdom*] is, and I will give it him” to refer to *Christ, THE PRINCIPAL and head, AND the COMPLETED Church*, his Body, which is his bride – the antitypical King David. (*Overland Monthly*, p.52, 1910) They, when married, will constitute “*THE CHRIST*” -- as *ONE unit TOGETHER* similar to “*Mediator*,” the “*Seed*,” the “*Prophet*.” The kingdom *reign, when it begins*, will be, as one unit, “given to [the entire “the Christ”] the *people of the saints* of the most high.” “The saints *possessed* the kingdom” after the burning of the “terrible” beast of Daniel 7:7,11. (Dan. 7:13,14,18,22,28) There is **no** possession *now, either of Christ or his church*. It will be a **multitudinous class** -- Christ, the head, and the Church, his body. An appropriate

understanding *is*: the Scripture refers to *the time when the Father turns the kingdom over to Christ* "in his *own* right." When that happens, (which has *NOT* yet happened), *no longer* will Israel be *WITHOUT a kingdom* under God. Jehovah's kingdom will *begin with Israel*. Christ shall be "David's Lord" and king replacement. (*Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 5, The Atonement Between God and Man*)

### THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN IN HEAVEN – WHEN?

Another familiar text is one quoted in connection with the subject of the reign. That is found in Matthew 24:30:

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven **with power and great glory**." Now, this verse as we have heard it discussed is *generally* given a *fulfillment of 1874*.

In *Pastor Russell's Sermons* book page 420, we find that this verse is **given a future application - contrary** to some of Brother Russell's earlier writings. The reign here, as we believe is associated with all these Scriptures that we read and others that we will cite later on is associated with the *epiphania*. That being one of the Greek words, **bright shining** that is used in connection with our Lord's return. That is **when the whole world will recognize** that there is a **heavenly power** in operation. We now quote from the Sermon page 420:

"We cannot say that the sign of the Son of Man in heaven will be his *Parousia* or secret presence. **On the contrary**, the *Parousia* will not be known to the tribes or families of earth in general; but will be known only to the most Saintly ones of the Church of Christ. Consequently, the sign of the Son of Man **must in some sense stand related to his epiphania or shining forth in the flaming fire of judgment which the whole world of mankind** will recognize. So when we read of the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, the thought might properly be that something **will occur** indicative of the presence of the Son of Man **that he has taken to himself his great power and has begun his reign**. This sign must be some sign of righteous indignation against wrong. It will be noted that St. Peter, in speaking **of that time of trouble** mentions that **the heavens, Ecclesiasticism, will be on fire first**. And that **later, the earth** will be involved also."

The question would be, Have **we observed** any, let alone all the tribes of the earth mourn related to **seeing the sign** of the Son of Man coming **in heaven**? Of course, we would answer, *No!* Also, the thought here, which you might keep in mind with your personal study is that Ecclesiasticism, Christendom **must be set on fire FIRST before** the world of mankind at large would have its experience **in that great time of trouble**. So what we see now, where there may be nations *struggling* against each another and *wars and rumors of wars* merely gives us a good indicator that **we are in the harvest still**.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (8) "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be **revealed** from heaven **with his mighty angels**, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (10) When he shall come to be **glorified in his saints**, and to be admired in all them that believe ... in that day."

Also cited from that Sermon book article is Isaiah 59:17-19 (18) "According to their deeds, accordingly **he will repay**, fury to his adversaries, **recompense** to his enemies; to the islands he will repay **recompense**. (19) So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his

glory from the rising of the sun." Have we **seen His fury**? Have we seen any **recompense to His enemies**? We would answer, **hardly!**

### NOW TO THE PSALMS

**PSALM 110.** We would like to next consider the Scripture of the Prophet David, Verse 1 "Jehovah saith unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, Until I make thine enemies thy footstool." (ASV) Jesus quoted this very Scripture in Matthew 22:44. He was "*Adonai*," Lord. The work he had to do was before him. *Enemies* of God **must be** removed. Peter also quotes this Psalm. (Acts 2:22-36)

**Raised as King and Exalted to Zion's Hill, AD 33.** (Psa. 110:7) "Yet I have set my king Upon my holy hill of Zion. I will tell of the decree: Jehovah said unto me, Thou art my son; **This day** have I begotten thee." (Psa.2:6,7 ASV, *Logos Library*, CD) The Prophet David said God would "*raise up* Christ to sit on his throne." (Acts 2:30) "He (David) seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ." (Acts 2:31) He was **raised, honored and exalted** to "the RIGHT HAND OF God" **back then.** (Acts 2:33) And he (as king) **REMAINS exalted** at the right hand of God -- "**until** I make thine enemies thy footstool." (Psa. 110:1) "But to which of the angels said He [Jehovah] at **ANY** time, Sit on **[at] my right hand** [in that *chiefly favored* position], until I make thine enemies thy footstool [crushed as the footstool of your feet]"? (Heb. 1:13, KJV) **CHRIST WAS MADE LORD!** "And God *has* made him both **Lord and Christ.**" (Acts 2:36)

### **USEAGE OF THE TITLE KING. WHEN WAS JESUS MADE KING?**

**The use of the title King.** There are many who would associate the use of King with reigning and we find that this is clearly not true. When this article was published in 1909, Brother Russell obviously did not make such a connection and neither do we. If the designation King **were the only factor** to be considered, then why not believe that he was reigning at his birth when the wise men had queried, "where is he that is born King of the Jews?" And that citation is from Matthew 2:2. Or perhaps, his arrival in Jerusalem, "Tell ye the daughter of Zion, behold thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and riding upon an ass, the colt, the foal of an ass." Matthew 21:5. Or his appearance before Pilate. And Pilate asked him saying, "**Art thou the King** of the Jews? And he answered him and said, "**Thou sayest it.**" Luke 23:3 Or when he was in the Praetorium and "they clothed him with purple and plated a crown of thorns and put it about his head and began to salute him '**Hail, King of the Jews.**'" Mark 15:17,18 Or, still further **at his crucifixion**, "**Yet have I set my king** upon my Holy Hill of Zion." Psalm 2:6. Or the superscription of his accusation, "The **King of the Jews**" found in Mark 15:26. So obviously there have to be certain qualifications that are associated with the use of the title King.

**The Parable of the Nobleman** Some will refer to the parable recorded in Luke 19:12,15 where it speaks of a nobleman who "went into a far country to *receive* for himself a Kingdom and to return." And it came to pass that when he was returned *having received* the Kingdom that he dealt with his servants and you know the story goes on. The argument given is that the nobleman, which we all know is Jesus, went away at his first advent and subsequently returns at his second advent *as a reigning King because he received* the Kingdom. The argument then proceeds that *his first act* was to raise the sleeping saints. (See above mentioned)

**Christ Does Not Reign alone** We believe that, when the time of Revelation 3:21 *would come*, the invitation of overcomers to "**sit with him in HIS throne**" would be fulfilled. The

Scriptures **do not** indicate **Christ reigns alone!** Jesus is *now seated* on a *throne next to Jehovah* but is **not yet exercising** authority or dominion **over the world** – “*until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*” See *Studies In The Scriptures, Vol. 3, Thy Kingdom Come*, Foreword. The Reign is also **not in various stages** of inauguration. He **waits for the signal** to exercise that power. That would, of course, mean that the “remnant” Church would **ALL** be brought forth *from death* and the “marriage of the Lamb *would have come.*” (Rev. 12:17; 19:7) What does that mean to us? It means that the **oneness** of Christ and his body *would be completed* and the reign **is ready** to take place.

Now concerning this thought of reigning **more directly** with the Church, we find this article of interest. First, from page 420 (*Bible Students Library CD*, page 1094) of the *Convention Reports Sermon*, we quote but a very brief remark. It says:

“The **presence of God in the Church** will be that toward which mankind will be drawn during Christ's reign, and all approach to Him **will be through this temple, the church.**”

Who are the enemies of Jehovah? David said, earlier, “Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: Depart from me therefore, ye bloodthirsty men. <sup>20</sup>For they speak against thee wickedly, And thine enemies take *thy name* in vain. <sup>21</sup>Do not I hate them, O Jehovah, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? <sup>22</sup>I hate them with perfect [complete] hatred: They are become mine enemies.” (Psa. 139:19-22, ASV) Who makes war against the lamb? It is Satan's theoretical finest hour. It is Satan's system **empowered** -- Protestant and Catholic -- particularly Papacy and their civil military might (“the kings of the earth”). (Rev. 16:14) But **Satan's power does not end** with Christendom's destruction. **He** will be at “Gog's” *attack on Israel* -- once more *attempting* universal genocide of that people. (Ezek. Chapters 38, 39)

**Rod of His Strength Is out of Zion.** If, therefore, Christ cannot reign *in his own right*, he must **wait until allowed** to “assume position **as king of the world.**” (*Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 3 Thy Kingdom Come*, Foreword) Psalm 110, Verse 2, tells us that the rod of his strength shall be **SENT “OUT OF ZION.”** Who is the rod of strength? **Jesus Christ. Zion is his Church**, which would be *then glorified* and the lamb exercises his “power” and “strength.” (Rev. 5:12,13) “These shall make war with the Lamb, *and the Lamb shall overcome* them: FOR he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: **AND they that are with him are** called, and chosen, and faithful.” The “faithful” ones, i.e., **unto death are the entire Church** (Rev. 17:14) -- including *the last remnant or raptured Church*, meaning, **as a class**, put to death -- **NO** last member.

**Enemies** “Rule thou **in the midst** of thine enemies.” Who are the enemies? Again, Romans 5:19. “We were enemies.” “We were *reconciled* to God.” “Thy right hand shall teach thee **terrible things.** (The judgment of the nations will begin with the great time of trouble – Armageddon. Matt. 24:21,22 CR164:2; SM57:1). Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies, whereby *the people fall* under thee.” (Psa. 45:4,5, KJV) Under Christ, **mankind** will fall down and acknowledge God. They will either *obey* or be **destroyed** – there is **no** other alternative. The enemies over which he will rule ARE **NOT** the nominal *systems* BUT **the whole world of mankind.** The command **to rule is not yet given!** If he were ruling now, it is quite clear that his enemies have the **upper hand** and are becoming **increasingly victorious.** Pretty *poor* rule, don't you think?

**The Scepter** The wooden *scepter* was a symbol of kingly **authority.** The rod Christ will now use **in the Kingdom age**, is a rod **of iron.** It is like a *flagellum* or a **baton** stick. The lesson is

**subjection.** 1Corinthians 15:25 (New KJV) "He must reign, *till he has put* all enemies *under* his feet." The lesson, again, is like the kings conquered by Joshua who were the *enemies of both God and Israel* -- "put your *feet upon the necks.*" (Josh. 10:24-26; Acts 3:19-21) Romans 16:20 refers to "the *great enemy*" of God, Satan. The "footstool" shows *recognition* of God's control and authority and, in this case, removal of the incorrigible. *In the end* this is how he will leave them before Jehovah God. There will be *no enemies left.* God's new day, the 8<sup>th</sup> millennium, showing *circumcision*, will BEGIN sharply *at once -- NO overlapping* between seventh and eighth thousand-year day. There are *no* two "1,000 years."

"The **Lord (Jehovah)** at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of His wrath." (Verse 5) This text is also translated **Jehovah.** (One of 134 places where the *Sopherim* changed Jehovah to Adonai. See Appx. 32. *Companion Bible*, Joseph Bullinger, 1969) Who are the kings? They are those down here in earth, *in prominent positions of rulership* of one kind or another. They will **first** feel the *brunt of his wrath.*

**A Sword of Judgment** When is the day of vengeance? Armageddon. This means that the sword is *sword of judgment.* Next, "He shall **judge among the heathen [nations],** he shall fill the places with the *dead bodies;* he shall **wound the heads** over many [great] countries." (Verse 6) "In *the day of the great slaughter,* when the towers fall (-- *the great ones.*)" (Isa. 30:25) The day of *plenty* will follow Jacob's trouble. Jehovah **will "plead with all flesh:** and the *slain of the LORD (Jehovah) shall be many.* (Isa. 66:16) "I will call for a sword upon **all** the inhabitants of the earth, saith Jehovah of hosts." (Jer. 25:29, ASV) "And the slain (with the *sword* of judgment) of Jehovah shall be at that day from one end of the earth **even unto the other** end of the earth." (Jer. 25:33, ASV) Jehovah hath a *controversy* with the nations." (Jer. 25:31) This has *not yet happened* to all the nations. This will **not happen until** the Church *is completed and glorified* -- "out of **Zion.**"

## PSALM 2

**Jehovah's Holy Hill** "Thou shalt dash them to pieces as a potter's vessel" (Psa. 2:9) -- one *resounding* "atomic-like" *blast* -- **suddenly,** "travail," like as "giving birth to a child" -- in the Greek, singular, *odin* "a," or **one birth pang** -- commonly misapplied as plural. (1Thes. 5:3, *Diaglott*) Continuing, Psalm 2:6,7, Jehovah says, "Yet have I set my king on **my** holy hill of Zion." When was this? "I will declare **the decree:** the LORD (Jehovah) hath said unto me, Thou art my son; **this day** have I begotten thee." Jesus had "the right of inheritance" of the Melchizedek or *king-priest* order. (Heb. 7:21) He was "highly *exalted.*" (Phil. 2:9) The head was **lifted up** (Psa. 110:7) *in the resurrection when Jesus was made king* and **EXALTED back then.** The answer is, we believe, **at the time of HIS exaltation and glorification,** when he was *invested* and *honored* with the *divine nature,* **during the 10 days** preceding Pentecost. He was **not made a king in 1874!** He **came AS king,** but he *awaits the signal* of the Father *to take control.* "Ask of **me** and I will give thee the nations for thine inheritance" -- as king *of the world.* (Psa. 2:8, ASV) (Psa. 110:8) He earned the right. It was a matter of **when** it (the signal) would be given! **Not** yet!

**Matthew 15:29** In a recent discourse, it is claimed the teaching of Jesus from the mountain is contrasted with the desert where he was previously and that this is an intended picture of something. There were two feedings. The mountain, it is claimed, represents Christ's kingdom and that he sits *in his kingdom,* *set up* his kingdom since 1878 AD onward -- in other words -- Christ's reign has begun.

Further, the use is made of numbers: 5,000 and 4,000 or 9,000 x 16 units of food = 144,000. Additionally, there were 5 + 7 loaves = 12 loaves and the 2 fishes + 2 fishes = 4 fishes. The 4+12 = 16 units of food. There were 12 baskets left from the “first feeding” of the 5,000 and 7 baskets left from the second feeding of 4,000. The 12 “baskets” were applied to the feeding by the 12 Apostles. The 7 “baskets” remaining were applied to the Seven Messengers (not withstanding the dearth of the 1260 years). The women and children were not counted at all; thus supposedly representing the Great Company which no man could number.

All of the applied calculations and circumstances *do not work out*. This reasoning is *highly* speculative and *may not be used to prove a doctrine*. We are obliged to *reason on the Scriptures* for to an exact foundation. We may not speculate on fanciful theories that have no place in the Word of God. It does *not prove* the reign of Christ begun in 1878.

### PSALM 149

*Psalm 149* The 149th Psalm (Verse 1) tells us of *singing a new song* of victory and salvation, *praising Jehovah in the congregation of the saints* when they are all there *in glory*. (Verse 2) Israel is to *later rejoice* and *Zion (Israel in the flesh) is joyful in their King*. (Verse 3) It is the time *of their victory* and a joyous occasion *celebrated* with music and dance. (Verse 4) Jehovah *takes pleasure in His people* and beautifies the meek ones (*the Holy Remnant of Israel*) with salvation.

(Verse 5) What follows next is, *the saints in glory*, who have *all* been *raised from the dead -- not just some* of the saints *nor some on this side* and *some* on the other. This Scripture *does not allow for that!* First, it should be remembered, Pastor Russell was *not dogmatic* as some *are* on this text. He used expressions like *"suggesting," "we are not sure," "we do not know," "a bare possibility," "not dogmatic."* (R5451)

As to *glory*, we shall be *"glorified together."* (Rom. 8:17) *"The glory that shall be [then] revealed in us."* *"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels (Greek: aggelos, messengers -- the 144,000) with Him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory."* (Matt. 25:31) *"We shall be like Him."* (1John 3:2)

*Beds. A Bed of Faith or a Bed in the Rest of Glory?* Isaiah 57:1,2 tells of "the righteous being *taken from the evil to come*" -- "perishing," being *put to death "THEY SHALL REST IN THEIR BEDS"* -- *IN GLORY*. No sleep *now!* The conflict will *soon be over!* We shall have *"entered into" the "rest for the people of God."* (Heb. 4:6-11, New KJV) of the promised Canaan. It is the entry into *the Canaan of peace* or *"rest" promised* of God. We shall *rest from our labors* or *"works"* in glory and *"our works follow with" us* beyond the veil. (Rev. 14:13) In Song of Solomon 3:7, Solomon comes to take *the church to his bed -- his rest*. (Verses 5-7)

*What works are being done beyond the veil?* The interests and concerns there would be many and varied. The harvest draws to a close (Rev. 14:15,16) and *scape goat must be dealt with* – things pertaining to the High Priest yet *in sacrificial garments*. (Lev. 16:22,23) Jesus yet sits as Chief Reaper. (Revelation 14:14) *Babylon is yet to fall with final judgment* responsibilities belonging to Christ and the Church. (Rev. 2:26, 27; Rev. 18:6) Michael stands forth causing cessation of the raging waves – anarchistic masses, etc., etc. (A 171:1; Luke 18:24; Matt. 24:22 -- Greek *dia*, through the elect.) In large, the *works* of the church in heaven would be *the main works of the Kingdom age – prepping for the future work in the judgment of mankind*. *"Greater works than these shall he [ye] do."* (John 14:12) Certainly *"the high praises of Jehovah God shall be in their mouth"* -- praises that *shall eternally endure*. (Psa.149:6)

**The two-edged sword** This sword will be *in their hand*. In Revelation 19:14, Christ, the King of Kings, leads the Armageddon assault and commands the nations in a loud voice to **“Get OUT!!”** See Isaiah 11:4. It is a sword of truth and by its symbol is also **judgment** in the day of Judgment! In Verse 6, this is a two-edged sword *in the hand*. Isa. 34:5,6 speak of the day of **Jehovah's vengeance** and the **sword against Bozrah**. Verse 7 states the purpose: “To *execute vengeance upon the nations* and **punishments upon the people.**” It should be kept in mind that the judgments of Christ and his **Church do NOT end with Armageddon**, which has *not occurred* as yet. We have learned that **the Day of Judgment is 1,000 years long** and is neither just 24 hours nor 124 years. (1Pet. 4:17; 1Cor. 6:2) For mankind, it constitutes *the remainder* of the Kingdom age. (Verse 8) The *kings or rulers shall come forth to judgment* as well -- **from the grave**. And their *underlings* or nobles shall *likewise be dealt with* as well **in chains of restraint and fettered from continuing wrong** against the people. (Verse 9) “To execute upon them *the judgments written.*” There will be no more Milosovich's. We know that: (1) A “smiting of Jordan message” will be given (2Kings 2:8,9) and the nations with their religious institutions **shall be subsequently judged**. (Rev. 18:5,6) (2) We also know that *the saints shall judge the world* in or by “righteous” standards. (1Cor. 6:2,3) (3) There were thrones seen “and **judgment was given unto them.**” (Rev. 20:4) We believe one of the keys to understanding this Scripture is Verse 9, **“this honor have ALL the saints.”** It will **not** be *some here and some there*. It will be **to all the Saints**, who will have been **glorified** after their demise by Christendom by the **“cutting off in death,”** “fiery furnace,” “lions’ den” or “beheading” experience as with John.

#### WHO TAKES THEIR GREAT POWER TO REIGN?

Reading that verse, Revelation 11:17, “We give thee thanks, O Lord God almighty, which art and wast because **thou** hast taken to thee **thy** great power and hast reigned.” This we think is an important distinction.

Another text which frequently is used to prove that the reign has begun (which will be discussed later) is found in Isaiah 52:7 “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy **God** reigneth!”

Several questions come to our mind immediately. The most obvious one is **how can it be possible that Jehovah is reigning**; but **Satan is still called the God** of this world? It is interesting that when we look at the study of *the god of this world*, it happens to be *ho theos*, which is very peculiar. We always think of **making the distinction between our Lord and Jehovah** as being Jesus -- *theos*; Jehovah -- *ho theos*. But in reference to Satan, Satan is even being described with this **same Greek word** that is used for Jehovah that is *ho theos*.

The world of course *is rampant* with sin. And for us to **think** that He is reigning and 99.9 per cent of earth's populace **doesn't know it** seems quite unreasonable.

**“The nations were angry”** -- in 1914? Revelation 11:18 reads, that “the nations **were angry**”, we think that the word “**were**” is **quite important** because it is included there to indicate that “the nations **were angry**” *before*, i.e., past tense, **before Jehovah reigns**. And when that **reign does eventually begin**, the world will see very quickly that **“His wrath is come.”** So based on a closer observation of these texts, we sometimes get clichés or very familiar phrases and they stick with us over the years and we feel comfortable with them. But when we look at them closely we find that there certainly are a lot of other possibilities. And to hold such a view **dogmatically** would be, in our estimation, very difficult.

Were the nations **angry in 1914** as expressed from the platform today? **No indeed!** David said, “Why **do** the nations rage, And the peoples meditate a vain thing? <sup>2</sup>The **kings of the earth** set themselves, And **the rulers take counsel together**, Against Jehovah, and **against HIS anointed** [ones]?” (Psa.2:1,2 ASV; Isa. 8:10) Their anger, (*Satan’s* anger) will be placated **against the church** and they **will “kill”** the saints of God in that **“dark night.”** (John 9:4; Rev. 13:15) “And thy **wrath [Armageddon] is come.**” **Not yet! But in Armageddon!** (Rev. 16:1, 16-21) “This honor” have *some* saints? **NO!** This honor have **ALL the saints** both *then* and **into the Kingdom age.**

## PSALM 45

**Psalm 45.** Psalm 45:1 speaks of the King. Who is that king? Brother Russell comments on this as being the Lord Jesus “**after being invested** with kingdom authority.” (SM55:1; Rev. 11:17) “My heart is indicting a good matter: I speak of the things, which I have made touching the king: my tongue *is* the pen of a ready writer.” (2) Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever. Commenting on this Brother Russell says further, “He had proven purity of heart and absolute loyalty to the Father.” “The grace of our Lord’s lips is manifest in the message that he left.” “Jesus exaltation is perpetual: far above angels and powers and every name.” (SM55,56)

**Gird thy sword upon thy thigh** (3) **Gird thy sword** upon *thy* thigh, O *most* mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. (4) And in thy majesty ride prosperously.” With reference to the **girding of the sword** on the thigh, he also makes this comment: “Make **ready** for the **day of vengeance.**” *Studies in the Scripture, Vol. 4, The Battle of Armageddon*, page 549. Because of the faithfulness of our Lord and his high exaltation, he may “ride prosperously” and **will be very successful** in all of his endeavors. (4) Because of truth and meekness *and* righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

**Thine Arrows Are Sharp In The Heart Of The King’s Enemies** (5) Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies, whereby *the people fall* under thee." Under Christ, **mankind** will fall down and acknowledge God. They will either *obey* or be **destroyed** – there is **no** other alternative. The enemies over which he will rule ARE **NOT** the nominal *systems* BUT **the whole world of mankind**. The command **to rule is not yet given!** If he were ruling now, it is quite clear that his enemies have the **upper hand** and are becoming **increasingly victorious**. (6) Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom *is* a **right sceptre**. The Revised Standard footnote says, “**Your throne is a throne of God.**” The Hebrew for “O God” (and **not “the God”**) is Elohim – *a mighty one* and for this reason it was translated in Hebrews 1:8, “**O God**” in the King James Version New Testament, even though the Greek interliniary reads “*ho theos.*” To have done otherwise would have forced the Hebrew incorrectly, **making Jesus, God**. The Scepter is a symbol of kingly authority.

**The Scepter of Kingly Authority** While the throne is a throne of God, the scepter is that rod that would be used to put down the enemies of Jehovah God as the “rod of iron.” He “rules in righteousness” and “in righteousness doth he judge and make war.” He is the Lord, the righteous Judge. The question is asked, “Doesn’t Christ’s kingdom continue forever? Our answer is, Christ’s kingdom of earth is a **temporary** kingdom and is **not forever and ever**. The kingdom begins when the Christ is complete and ends “when his work on earth is done.” (1Cor. 15:25-28). (See *Studies in the Scriptures, The Atonement Between God and Man, Volume 5, Jehovah*) (See “Scepter under Psa. 110, Rod of his strength, above.) (7) Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest



wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.” Because of his faithfulness to God and righteousness, he became the head of the Church and the first anointed – God’s anointed, the Messiah.

## PSALM 46

**Psalm 46.** “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in *trouble*.” (Verse 1) There are **those** who believe that “this is evidence that the Church will be here in the “great time of trouble” and that the “great time of trouble” *is already occurring* in the world. Without question, it is *true* that the Great Company *will experience* THAT trouble.

(Verse 2) “Therefore **WE** will not fear though the earth be removed and the mountains be carried into the midst of the deep.” Thus is shown the *calm of the Christian for any trouble* that may arise throughout the Gospel age, *let alone* now. We always have the full Scriptural *assurance that the mountains or kingdoms* of this world shall be *replaced* by the new heavens and new earth mentioned in 2Peter 3:13. The thought, correctly, *is* that the mountains or *kingdoms* shall be carried into the *midst of the raging anarchistic masses*; the mountains will flatten *in Armageddon* -- the kingdoms – “the powers that be.” (Rom. 13:1) (Verse 3, ASV) “Though the waters thereof *roar and be troubled*, though *the mountains tremble* with the swelling thereof.” The *swelling waters are the raging masses* of mankind *coming nearer* and nearer to the conditions spoken of here -- *the forerunner* to Armageddon. The tremors or shakings of the mountains *are not the “great earthquake”* of Revelation 16:18 in which *society will then break apart*. It is the premonitory *click* as of a clock of that which is to surely come.

(Verse 4) “There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of [Jehovah] God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.” What could this be? It refers to *the Temple to be built* in the future *when* its symbolical *waters of life* shall be *available* to mankind. In the reality, “the waters of life” *shall flow from the completed church when glorified together* - the *completed city or temple* of Jehovah God. (Ezek. 41:1-26; 43:18; 47:1-8 -- the river) The *streams* are *composed of individual Christians*. “Out of his belly [of the one exalted to divine glory] shall flow living waters” “springing up into everlasting life.” (John 7:38; John 4:14) Presently, they are “rivulets.” In *glory*, they *will be combined* in a *wonderful stream of life-giving waters!* The *completed Church IS the city* of government of Jehovah. (Rev. 21:2) (Verse 5) “God *is* in the midst of her: *she shall not be moved.*” *When* God is *in the midst of her*, she shall NOT be moved -- *forever* and forever. God *is* our *refuge* and strength. They, the Church, *have attained their position* on high by their *change to glory* and are *inured* to harm.

“God shall help her right early *in the dawning* of **HER** morning.” It is the *morning of resurrection* before the world's. Help her? How so? God will help her *in the coming hard experiences* and sufferings *when assailed* by those in control -- *with great grace and strength* when bruised in death -- *as were Stephen and Christ*. (Verse 6, ASV) “*The nations raged*, the kingdoms were moved: He uttered his voice, the *earth melted.*” The world has tried to establish and maintain a kingdom of their own. Their efforts, *against either Jehovah or his anointed ones HERE* both are and will be, *futile*. Jehovah God does this by “*breaking them* in pieces” and *establishing His “eternal” kingdom in earth*. (Dan. 2:44) The *melting* of the earth or *society*, as it now exists, *will be in the REAL “great time of trouble”* -- in the words of the Pastor, “*in the full sense of the word is anarchy.*” The fire that *melts*. We *haven't* seen that kind of trouble, yet! (Verse 7) God is not *only* our refuge, but also that *of Jacob*, Israel, or *the “Holy Remnant”* in “the *time of [their] Jacob's trouble.*” (Jer. 30:7)

Verses 8,9 “Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. (9) He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.” In a most wonderful discourse, reference was made to 2Chronicles 20:22-29 and the battle of Jehoshaphat. Judah looked down from the “*watch tower*” **heights**, from the “*valley of Blessing*” where the *praises* to Jehovah were sung. (Hymn 107) They, the Church, in antitype, were **in no sense within the conflict** of Jacob’s Trouble. They looked down **from on high** and saw a multitude of dead bodies -- **the defeat of Gog and of Magog** -- the destruction **that God had wrought**. (Verse 10) “Be still! Know that ***I am God! I will be exalted*** in the earth! *The God of Jacob* or Israel is our refuge.” The **kingdom reign has taken hold** in the earth! **The reign has then begun!** Christ *is successful* and the **only** rightful King! **His reign is not over the kingdoms of “the god of this world.”** Satan’s kingdoms of the present were given **in the hands of that false Christ, who accepted them, the Pope who, sits in Satan’s seat -- Rome**. (2Cor. 4:4; Matt. 4:8; Rev. 2:13; Rev. 16:10) His reign **is not** over the Church. Christ and his Church **begin their reign TOGETHER** (Greek, *epi*) **over earth**. (Rev. 5:10) Gog has met with defeat against Israel. Ezek. 39:21,22. At that point, Satan is **then bound**, not *piece-meal* but **AT ONCE, and by Christ**. **No longer** is Satan a king. (Rev 20:1-3)

### ISAIAH 52 THY GOD REIGNETH!

**Isaiah 52 Thy God Reigneth!** The early part of this chapter tells of Israel, and, like Psalm 102:13,16, refers to *Israel as Zion*. It further mentions *her as Jerusalem*, the holy city. (Verses 1,2) This shows a condition where those, who will then begin God’s kingdom, will **NOT then bring forth** the *uncircumcised* of heart **NOR the unclean**. (1) They are **“holy unto Jehovah.”** (Isa. 4:2-4) They come **from “of the dust,”** of being *down trodden*. The bands of *servitude* will have been **completely struck off** -- “O *captive daughter of Zion*.” (2) (Verse 3) Spiritual Israel **has never sold themselves**. (3) Natural Israel shall be *redeemed “without money,”* through Christ’s **ransom** merit, from under the Law and brought into a New (Law) Covenant. (Heb. 9:15; Jer. 31:31; Rom. 11:26,27) (Verse 4) The Lord Jehovah declares that Natural Israel went down to Egypt on a “*temporary journey*,” they were “*made slaves*,” and “the Assyrian *oppressed them*.” Jehovah God asks the question, “Why has Israel been taken away for *no good reason*?” (Verse 5) “They **who ruled over** them *made them howl*,” in the **many scenes of the 2520 years**. The “trampling down” of Israel’s *national polity* ended **in 1914 – on time**. They were **persecuted** by the Catholic Church, Spanish Inquisitions and Crusaders, Russians in Kiev and Kishenev, and by the Germans, the Poles and Hungarians, etc., in the European Holocaust under Catholic Hitler. And they will likewise be persecuted **in the future holocaust** of Jacob’s trouble, by many of those same Europeans and Russians, etc. He continues, (Verse6): “My people *shall know my name* [Jehovah]:” therefore they shall know in that day that I am He” that shall both speak **and act**. “Behold, it is I.”

### TRANSLATORS SPIRITUALIZE VERSES 7 AND 8

Then comes the very *exhilarating* text (Verse 7), “How beautiful upon the mountains [the kingdom *established*] are the **feet of him [Jehovah]**.” The feet here are **God’s representatives**, His **authorized Ancient Worthies, in the earth** -- those kingdoms (nations) will **THEN be under God’s control** and the time when **His name BEGINS to be made known**. We **do not!** -- repeat **do NOT! believe** the remnant Church to be the “*feet members*” described here! We quote the

following: “Down through history, Bible translators (Catholic and Protestant) have put a paragraph break here in order to spiritualize verses 7 and 8, but there should be no break. These two verses are related to and connected with previous verses. ‘Zion’ often refers to spiritual Israel, the context determines the usage, and the context here is about natural Israel.”

“Through experience and study, when we find that a certain application is true in Bible interpretation, we tend to use that precedent as a hard-and-fast rule for other passages. For example, let us consider Isaiah 40: ‘Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received at the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.’ (Isaiah 40:1,2) ‘Jerusalem’ is natural Israel, who had “received at the LORD’S hand double for all her sins” in 1878 when the time period of disfavor was fulfilled. This message has been given and is being given in the Harvest period. Now to continue on in Isaiah 40: ‘O Zion that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain: O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord GOD will come with a strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.’ (Isaiah 40:9,10) This message is also being given, but it has **not yet been fulfilled**. Verses 9 and 10 are **good news** about what **will happen**, whereas verses 1 and 2 are **good news** about what **has already happened**. Verses 9 and 10 are future; verses 1 and 2 are either concurrent or in the past. God has not yet come with a ‘**strong hand**’; His arm does not yet rule for him. The purpose of this advance information is to encourage and strengthen the right-hearted Jew.”

“Nahum 1:15 is also pertinent: "Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off." Again this is **future** good news (but spoken of as having occurred in the past). At this time the wicked shall no longer be in Judah. This message will be given in the future after Jacob's Trouble.” – *Shallieu Bible Commentary – Isaiah*. Frank Shallieu, (1976-1981), *Bible Students Library 2003*

## JEHOVAH’S FEET – NOT THE FEET OF JESUS

**They are Jehovah's feet** (NOT those of Jesus) -- God’s authority in the earth, “**His feet** shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives.” Zech. 14:4 “Thus saith Jehovah, Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool.” The earth is **His footstool**. (Isa. 66:1, ASV) (Verse 7, New KJV) “Who brings good news, Who **proclaims** peace, Who brings good tidings of good things, Who **proclaims** salvation, Who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ ” It is His Ancient Ones who **bring** the “good news” -- that issue **proclamations** of peace. The word is “**proclaim!**” Proclamations are made about *something that has happened*. They bring “**good news** of good” of this **established** kingdom. They **proclaim salvation**. They say unto **Zion or Israel**, “Your **God [NOW] reigns**” in earth! “Say unto the cities of Judah, Behold thy God.” (Isa. 40:9,10; Isa. 24:23; Psa. 93:1)

The Lord's people **are watchmen**; Israel **also** has watchmen. (Verse 8) “Your watchman shall lift up their voices; with their voices together **shall they sing** together [praises to Jehovah], for **they shall see eye to eye**, **WHEN** the LORD [Jehovah] shall **bring back** Zion.” Note: Zion is brought **again!** When shall the Lord’s watchmen “see eye to eye”? -- **not until** they, as the Church, **shall together sing, also, beyond** the veil. Now we **know partly** and **see partly**, through a glass **darkly (not too clear)**; but then, **together and complete**, we “**shall know** even as” we are

“known.” (1Cor. 13:12) In Israel, there are those who love God’s Law – “Covenant keeping Israelites,” as the Pastor called them, or a Holy Remnant who are looking for prophetic fulfillments to natural Israel and for the Messiah. Israel’s “blindness” shall also be removed. (Rom. 11:25) (*Studies in the Scriptures, Thy Kingdom Come*, p. 293)

Continuing in the same context, we are told of the “redemption” and “restoration” of Israel. It reads (Verses. 9,10, ASV), “Break forth into joy, **sing together**, ye waste places **of Jerusalem**; for Jehovah *hath comforted His people*, he hath **redeemed Jerusalem**.” *We as watchmen* -- as watchers of God’s Word have a message, now (Isa. 40:1,2), *to comfort*. That which is spoken of **in this text**, (Verse 9), **is** the millennium; THIS describes **the kingdom reign to come**. (Verse 10, ASV) “Jehovah hath made bare his holy arm [strength] in the eyes of all the nations” **by his miraculous power** and *through Christ and the Church* in the demise of the kingdoms of this world and the **destruction** of that horrible image. The Chapter ends with (Verse 10,) “all the ends of the earth have seen **the salvation of our God**.” The world **will have seen Israel’s miraculous deliverance** and they will come to know the real salvation **to be made known** through His Son, Jesus Christ. (See Verse 15)

**Note:** See Supplement at the end of this study: “**Christ’s Reign – Preaching and Proclaiming. A Comparison Between Romans 10:15 and Isaiah 52:7**” regarding the **meaning** of the “Feet of Him.”

## ISAIAH 62 - THE WATCHMEN

**Isaiah 62: 4-12** “Thou shalt *no more be termed Forsaken*; neither shall thy land *any more be termed Desolate*: but thou shalt be called Hephzi-bah, and thy land Beulah; *for Jehovah delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married*.” (ASV) Verse 4 **refers primarily to natural Israel**. “Hephzibah,” the future name for Israel means “My delight is in her.” “Bulah,” the name for the land means “married;” in other words, “thy land shall be married.” It will no more be the property of strangers or those laying claim to it.\*

**Verse 5** “For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee; and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.” (ASV) This thought harmonizes with verse 1, where God said “For Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest until salvation goes forth like a lamp.” It is as if God is impatient for this day to come.\*

**Verse 6, 7** “**I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day nor night**: ye that are Jehovah’s remembrancers, take ye no rest, and give him no rest, till he establish, and **till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth**.” (ASV) Who are the *Watchmen* here? The **primary application is to natural Israel** to and about whom this promise of God was made! Any other application would have to be in the *secondary sense*. The *Great Multitude* will have their part in persistence for Israel and Jerusalem and which message will result in their death by the anarchists – Jew haters, inspired by the Devil. The reason why we reference this Scripture **is to show that the Watchmen application**, given in this study (Isaiah 52:8), also **applies to the Jew primarily**.

Who would be more anxious than the Jew to have peace in this land and no more terrorist, Islamic claims and threats as to ownership of both the land and Jerusalem? **The claim that Israel has Watchmen set upon its walls is made in the literature distributed in Israel today**. This is **their claim** that Isaiah 62: 6, 7 **applies to their Watchmen** in the land of Israel. **This is a legitimate claim** as the Scripture so declares. **There are Watchmen in natural Israel today** as have been in the past. Leaders such as Theodore Hertzl, Lord Beaconsfield, Weitzman,

BenGureon and others have exercised belief in and dedicated themselves for the restoration of Israel and Jerusalem. (See Volume 3, *Studies in the Scriptures*)

**Verse 8, 9** “Jehovah hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy grain to be food for thine enemies; and foreigners shall not drink thy new wine, for which thou hast labored: but they that have garnered it shall eat it, and praise Jehovah; and they that have gathered it shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary.” (ASV) This shows that no foreign invaders, occupiers or enemies of Israel will have access to the food or wine that they have produced. \*The BSL 2.0 (2003) *Isaiah - Shallieu Bible Commentary*, reads: “They that have brought it together shall drink it in the courts of my holiness. For ‘holiness’ the Revised Standard Version has ‘*sanctuary,*’ *i.e., the Third Temple.* Once we are alerted to see them, there are *many, many Scriptural references to the literal Temple of the future.* The fruits of Israel’s labor shall be drunk in the [inner and outer] courts of my [God’s] sanctuary.”

**Verses 10, 11** “Go through, *go through the gates*; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, *cast up the highway*; gather out the stones; *lift up an ensign for the peoples.* Behold, Jehovah hath proclaimed unto the end of the earth, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” (ASV) ***The Daughter of Zion is natural Israel. This is a Millennial Age picture.*** (Isaiah 35) Then, “God will proclaim throughout the earth ‘Behold, [natural] Israel’s salvation cometh; behold my reward is with me and my work is before me.’ (paraphrase) In the Kingdom the Ancient Worthies receive their reward from God. (Luke 13:28)” The Standard for the people is the Law of God. The gates to the City of the “New” Jerusalem are the Ancient ones. (Revelation 21:12) The way will be prepared for the people who are going to Jerusalem - for the Word of Jehovah goes forth from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3) (See BSL 2.0 [2003] Commentaries: *Isaiah* as above)

**Verse 12** “And they shall call them The holy people, The redeemed of Jehovah: and thou shalt be called Sought out, A city not forsaken.” (ASV) ***Jerusalem shall be restored*** and the means of Salvation to all the world who enter through its gates, the perfected Ancients, and **the Holy Remnant** who assist them. “The nations will call the Holy Remnant ‘*The holy people, the redeemed [rescued] of the LORD.*’ ... Following Jacob’s Trouble, the Gentiles will appreciate and want to associate with those Jews who are left as a remnant.’ (Zechariah 8:23) (See BSL 2.0 (2003) Commentaries: *Isaiah* as above)

## PSALM 97 JEHOVAH REIGNETH

***Psalm 97, “Jehovah Reigneth;*** Let the earth *rejoice*; let the multitude of isles *be glad* thereof.” (Verse 1) *Does Jehovah God reign?* It is important to recognize that ***it is God here*** and that ***it is His kingdom as well*** as Christ’s. *Does the earth rejoice? Are the many isles or lesser kingdoms glad? Not yet! Not yet* are all things ***under God’s control***; nor are “his feet” *planted* in the earth as at the Mount of Olivet. (Verse 2) “Clouds and darkness are round about Him. Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne.” (Verse 3) “A fire goeth before him and burneth up his enemies in every place.” (Verse 4, ASV) “His lightnings lightened the world: the earth saw and trembled.” (Verse 5, ASV) “The mountains melted like wax at the presence of Jehovah, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.”

Psalms 93:1, 96:10, Psalm 97, Psalm 98:9 and 99:1, all speak of ***the reign of Jehovah*** and that the intent of the reign ***is to judge the earth*** – ***“the world with righteousness and the people with His truth.”*** (Psa. 96:12) That judgment of God begins with ***the Armageddon downfall*** of the nations and the reign over those nations ***with the establishment of His “stone” kingdom*** with the

debris cleared out of the way, becoming the mountain from which that judgment emanates to all nations. For this reason “the floods clap their hands” and the “hills” will “be joyful together” in that kingdom age.

We see “both the *goodness* and the *severity* of God.” (Rom. 11:22) God is *the judge of all*. (Heb. 12:23) Vengeance *belongs to Him*. (Heb. 10:30) This is the reason *Volume 4* was originally called, *The Day of [Jehovah's] Vengeance*. (Isa. 34:8) It was later changed to the more explicit terminology *The Battle of Armageddon*. The Armageddon of Revelation 16:16 did not happen in 1874, 1914, *or any other date of the past*. It is a *future event*. From the *1912 Foreword* it has now been *88 years*. Armageddon yet awaits the “*church-union prophesied*.” The present work is still the *preparation of the elements* toward that “*strange act*.” (Joel 3:10; Isa. 28:21) The consummation of the nations *will follow* the final cryptic *fall of nominal “Christiandom”* or churchianity. Babylon will *come into judgment* and will have its one and *only* final fall -- the “judgment of the great whore” “who made the nations intoxicated.” (Rev. 17:1,2) The judgment of the nations is *next* and is manifest in anarchy *or fire*. (Verse 3) A like judgment will *continue to burn* until *neither root nor branch are left*. Mal. 4:1. There is *no 1914 factor here*. The wind (*singular*) -- *on going from then* -- does *not destroy “Christiandom” or the nations* but *prepares* for their overthrow. (Verse 5) To the nations: “they melted like wax” *UNDER THE FIERY HEAT*. Combined “Christiandom” and Roman and *all the four “image”* nations (Including USA) must be *entirely impacted upon* by the stone in *ONE annihilating blow*. (Dan. 2:34,44) It is “his strange act,” (Isa. 28:21) in which Christ and his glorified saints will participate. In the “Day of Jehovah” Chapter in *Volume 1*, p. 307, Christ is properly called “the General of Jehovah.” Since the hearts of the people *were not turned* back to Jehovah by the Elijah class, *the earth will be smitten* with *the coming* “great time of trouble.” (Mal. 4:6)

It can readily be seen that the *more important* aspect of the judgment (Verse 2) has to do with mankind in the Kingdom age as well. That is the aspect of *life and death*. The fire (Verse 3) of destruction has two parts. The primary focus is on *enemies in this end of the age*; but enemies will also be destroyed *during and at the conclusion* of the Kingdom age. (Verse 4) *The lightnings*. “The earth [*people then*] saw [*the lightnings*] and trembled.” There have been seen *natural acts* in the past which God saw fit to allow on behalf of *natural Israel* in the time of the Law Covenant (see Heb. 12:18-21) and *when Jesus died* (Matt. 27:45, 51) And so they will continue, future, on behalf of fleshly Israel, as the prophecies declare. The Holy Remnant of Israel will yet be told *what to do in the midst of trouble*, when the earthquake comes which created the valley into which they, like the early Church, were saved *as they fled -- as instructed*. (Zech. 14:5) We “see his coming judgments” and the nations *WILL tremble* -- especially at Jacob’s trouble (Jer. 30:6-8) when God is manifest. (Ezek. 38, 39:21-29) “The demons believe *and tremble*” concerning judgment. (James 2:19) Mankind will witness the judgments of *those refusing to hear*. See Heb. 12:25 (Verse 6) “The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people *see His glory*.” The heavens have *ALWAYS* declared His righteousness and the *true* spiritual heavens as well. But *all* the people *DO NOT YET see his glory*. We read that “the glory of Jehovah *shall be revealed and all flesh* shall see it together.” (Isa. 40:5, ASV) We further read that the Son of man will also “come *in his glory*” (Matt. 25:31) and will be “*glorified* in his saints.” (2Thes. 1:10) (Verse 7) “Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols; *worship him* all ye gods [*elohim -- mighty ones*].” We already know the history of Israel and how *they failed* to serve the great Jehovah, their God. Instead, they worshipped idols and *false* gods. (Christendom and heathendom, likewise, still so worship today) It is also *God's judgment* over Israel. (Ezek. 20:33)

The *reign will follow* at the *end* of Jacob's trouble, which is the end of *Armageddon*. See *Volume 4*, p. 552, "The Time of Jacob's Trouble." Israel, without the Holy Spirit, is not reigned over NOW. (Ezek. 37:14; Joel 2:28) In the figurative wilderness (as of Sinai), a holy *tenth or remnant* of the survivors of Israel *will be* determined. (Ezek. 20:33-38) The rebels shall be *completely purged out* and will *NOT* be among the *survivors* -- They "*shall not enter* into the land" -- even though in Israel. (Ezek. 20:38) The point of interest here is: (Ezek. 20:39) "Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter *also*, if ye will not hearken unto me: *but pollute ye my holy NAME no more* with your gifts, and with your *idols*." Concerning Israel in the restorative processes of the kingdom, God says, "You shall *loathe yourselves* in your own sight *for all the evils* that you have committed" (-- *deep* contrition for transgression) (Ezek 20:43 New KJV)

(Verses 8,9)"Zion, [the Holy Remnant by *reason of context* and *deliverance* following (Verse 10)], heard and *was glad*, And the DAUGHTERS OF *JUDAH* rejoiced, Because of thy judgments [*past*], O Jehovah. <sup>9</sup>For thou, Jehovah, art most high above all the earth: Thou art exalted far above all gods [*mighty ones*]. He preserveth the souls of his saints [*His holy ones*]; He delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked." *Israel's deliverance*, as mentioned in *Studies in the Scriptures, The Battle of Armageddon, Volume 4, Jacob's Trouble* (subtitle), *will be* accomplished. With blindness removed, they will be an *enlightened, purged, saved, and delivered holy people*. (Rom. 11:25-27; Isa. 4:3,4)

## THE BINDING OF SATAN

*Binding of Satan* The binding of Satan is described in two places in particular. The main emphasis, which has been *fostered* over the years, was that Satan is being *gradually bound* by light. Their reasoning is as follows: The binding of Satan is *directly* connected with the reign because Christ was present in 1874. And therefore, because the text of the King James or other translation reads, "and bound him for a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:2)," say those, Satan *must be bound exactly* one thousand years. Further, say they, *because* the church according to the view of this text (Verse 4), "lived and reigned with him a thousand years." They further suggest a relationship between Revelation 20:1 and 1Thessalonians 4:16. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand." On this, they say, the key and chain as symbols show that "the Lord is the one with authority and the capability to really deal with and dispense with Satan *for the period of the thousand years*." There is a comparison made by them to 1Thessalonians 4:16 where it reads: "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

*Binding beginning in 1874?* They further say, mention of the "*angel* who came down from heaven" (mentioned in a talk as recently as 2009) **Revelation 18:1** is none other than the returned Christ in 1874 and proves the binding began then. But *is* this theory so? Is this comparison correct? We think not. *Christ returns to heaven with the Church to be presented, honored and glorified in the presence of God. We cannot make a stereotype of an angel coming down from heaven. Christ will "come down from heaven" at the final end in Armageddon's Jacobs Trouble and will there and at that time personally lay hold upon and bind him for the remainder of the thousand years and not before that.* 1Thessalonian 4:16 refers to the earliest period of time during our Lord's second advent from 1874 AD when those asleep in Christ are raised from the dead, viz., 1878 AD and not to the future binding described in Revelation 20.

(See *Studies in the Scriptures Vol. 2*, pps. 143,144) It is in no way connected with Revelation 20:1. That is a forced comparison.

### No Mention of “A Thousand years” in Revelation 20:2

The Siniatic MS, the manuscript *most trusted* by the Pastor, also does *not* so say. Brethren fail to consider this translation; and yet, because it is the oldest of manuscripts, it presents a critical enlightenment worthy of note, harmonizing with the general plan of God as presented in His Word. The Siniatic MS, for Revelation 20:2, simply reads this way: “*and bound him in the abyss.*” No mention of a thousand years! The angel coming down was Jesus. **He** had the key to lock the bottomless pit, and **he** also had the great chain of restraint *in his hand*. He is not *binding* and *binding* and *binding*! “Laid hold on him...” figurative or literal? Again, they argue, “We think that the word can appropriately be describing a process here. It means to use strength, to seize or retain. But it is used literally or figuratively...” That need not be debated. They go on further and say, “There is metaphoric language here describing Jesus confronting Satan, I believe *with truths, enlightening those who have been CAPTIVE...* The *restraint of evil*, the holding of evil in any way or any form is what Br. Russell perceived *as this process of binding.*” By their own definition it is admitted that the words “laid hold on” from the Greek (Strong’s 2902) *krateo* mean “to use strength, to seize.” It is admitted by the same source that after the church is glorified and after the marriage supper, “Satan will then be *personally bound* and sealed in the abyss.” To the contrary of what they have said Christ, *at a particular point* during his presence described later, *is to physically* lay hold upon the Devil and bind him in the figurative abyss or bottomless pit, etc. He is to take Satan out of action “**THAT HE SHOULD DECEIVE THE NATIONS NO MORE** till the thousand years *should be fulfilled*” (Rev. 20:1-3) – *nearing the end* -- the “little season.” The word “*fulfilled*” needs to be considered contextually. The context would be the entire chapter --*that would suggest “nearing the end.”*

Are the nations *being* deceived? **ABSOLUTELY!** Satan's presence, as usurping king, *continues* even *to* the demise of Jacob’s trouble *and* those nations who come against her. Verse 7 from the Siniatic MS text reads, “*Nearing* [Gk. *telesthes*), *approaching*] *the end* (Gk. *telos*) [of] the thousand years, will be loosed the Satan out of the *prison of him.*” (Revelation 20:7) (See *The Keys of Revelation*, pps, 521,522)

*“ . . . that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”*

They further say, “This expression, “after the thousand years,” clearly means to me, at least, that it is AFTER and not DURING the thousand years that the release of Satan will take place.”

To which we respond with what we feel is an appropriate answer to the question. “The Sinaitic omits ‘*and*’ to render the end of this passage ‘After *these things* [Greek *tauta*—plural] he must be loosed a little season.’ After what things must Satan be loosed? *After being laid hold of, being bound, being cast into the abyss, being shut up, and having a seal set upon him*—the emphasis is on *these things* and **not** specially **on the thousand years**, as the conjunction ‘and’ would necessitate.” (Revelation 20:3) (*The Keys of Revelation*, pps. 512,513)



### Number As The Sand Of The Sea

It is argued by those who believe in a gradual binding by light, “I do think that the reference to the ‘number is as the sands of the sea’ refers to the ones he DECEIVES but RATHER **the ones he is ATTEMPTING** to deceive.”

To which we respond, “The clause ‘the number of whom [*them* in the Greek] is as the sand of the sea [shore]’ [Rev. 20:8] certainly represents an *innumerable class* both here and in every similar instance elsewhere in Scripture. However, two of these instances additionally indicate quality or *kind*. In verse 8 the emphasis is ‘the *number* ...is as the sand of the sea.’ Question: Could the expression about the number being as the sand of the sea apply to the nations—that the nations in the four quarters of the earth will be numbered as the sand of the sea—and not the rebels? Reply: The answer might be construed either way, but ‘**the number of *them***’ is more easily identifiable with ‘**to gather *them* [that is, Gog and Magog, not the righteously inclined]...to battle.**’ This seems *unmistakably* to point to the immensity of the forces of Gog. Even 10 percent of earth’s approximately twenty billion inhabitants at that time *would be an exceedingly great number of rebels*, viz., two billion souls. Also, in the sentence structure of verse 8, the clause ‘sand of the sea’ *is far removed from the word ‘nations.’* It is far more likely, therefore, that the large number refers to Gog and Magog.” (*The Keys of Revelation*, pps. 524, 525)

The 7,000 years end *exactly on time* when *sin shall end* and all the wicked are *completely destroyed*. No sin on the *eighth* thousand-year day! God **then** begins his *new work* with “the circumcised of the flesh.” Bible Students should recognize the fact that the Siniatic *does NOT say* for “a thousand years.” It just *isn’t* there! (Verse 2) Satan is *not* bound by light. “Lord, the powers of evil *are increasing* every day.” (Verse four of Appx. C) He will *personally* and *physically be laid hold* of and bound -- **future**. How active is Satan? *Very* active. (It is not “a” thousand years but “*the*” thousand years -- the age’s *name*. See *The Keys of Revelation*, for manuscript detail on the use of “a” and “the” in Revelation, Chapter 20, Siniatic MS, etc.) Satan is even more active than before! So much so, that he “would *deceive*, if he could, the very elect.” (Matt. 24:24) He comes “with all *deceivableness of unrighteousness*” – “*strong delusion*” (Gk. *energia*) “in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth [or the truth in the love of it], that they might be saved.” (2Thes. 2:9,10) (See *Volume 2*, -- The Man of Sin)

### LITTLE SEASON, SATAN’S AND WICKED’S DESTRUCTION WITHIN THE SEVENTH MILLENNIUM EIGHTH DAY BEGINS WITH RIGHTEOUS ONLY

Now, since it is convenient to mention it, and since it is shown here on our chart (of course, we have no direct Scriptures to prove this and it is supposition but) we think it is quite reasonable. Just as there was a two-year season of testing in the Garden of Eden before man sinned, we think that there would be a comparable **two-year little season** at this end of the age in which man will be tested to see if they pass the test of righteousness to live into the ages to come.

Also to mention it, not that it is part of the remarks on this subject per se’, but that we believe Satan will be bound *within the thousand year* period *before* he is loosed *at the end of* this period of time (still *within the thousand years*) for the little season of testing upon the world of

mankind. Then, of course, being cut off in final destruction **before 2874 AD**, which marks interestingly, the end of the 49,000 years of the Creative week that we understand to be correct. Of course many brethren will suggest (and you can not argue it too deeply) **if the Seventh day is clearly shown to be** seven thousand years by Scripture, then we assume that the *previous six days would have been* seven thousand years in duration. This called *deductive reasoning* as found in algebraic equations. There is no Scripture to prove that point but it is a **logical conclusion** to draw.

Of course, too, we find that the last thousand-year period **in the Seventh Creative Day**, which we understand to be the Millennium, **concludes at 2874**. We think that this is a very critical date and applies to the time which is expressed in I Corinthians 15:28. That the Kingdom **would be then** handed over to the Father and that He would be All in all. That is, **Satan would be destroyed**. All of the **evil host [would be destroyed]**. (Ezek 28:18,19) Though the possibility of death would always exist and the “lake of fire” would continue (representing second death), there would no longer be a need for death as a form of punishment. It is just death as a concept. It is no longer necessary because all that are able to pass into the “ages to come” will have been thoroughly tested even as the Ancient Worthies, the Little Flock and the Great Company will have had their testing of faithfulness. However God’s prerogative remains. “What do ye devise against Jehovah? **He will make a full end**; affliction (because of sin) **shall not rise up the second time.**” (Nahum 1:9) This is the principle with Jehovah God. His tolerance of sin was for the instruction of man in the permission of evil now reigning -- the knowledge of good and evil. The thought is, that once the testing of men and angels is thus accomplished, there will no longer be tolerance for sin on God’s part. It shall forever and **always shall forever remain**, “Jehovah preserveth all them that love him; But **ALL the wicked will he destroy.**” (Psa. 45:20 KJV) It is God’s retentive prerogative.

**Binding of the Strong Man** “How can one enter into a strong man's house and spoil his goods, except he *first bind* the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.” (Matt. 12:29) Luke 11:21 “When the strong [man] fully armed guardeth his own court, his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him his whole armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.” Luke 11:21,22 “But no one **can enter into the house** of the strong [man], and spoil his goods, **except he first bind the strong [man]**; and **then** he will spoil his house.” Mark 3:27

The argument by those who feel that Satan is in the process of being bound is, “It does not say that he cannot enter the house. It says he cannot spoil his goods -- unless he first binds the strong man. I will read it again. "No man can enter into a strong man's house AND spoil his goods except he will first BIND the strong man and THEN he will spoil his house." I think that what it does say is that he enters, he binds and then he spoils. He enters. He binds and he spoils -- in that order.” “Lays hold on, seizes and then *gradually binds the Devil* -- taking eventually the spoil.”

Our response is that Mark puts it a little differently and says **no one can enter the house except he first bind the strong man** and then he will spoil his house. Whereas Luke puts Satan, the “strong man,” as “armed and guarding his own court” – **outside the house**. But when the “stronger than he” [Christ] shall come upon him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and then divides his spoils.

### **Binding Precedes Entering**

“The thought that Satan’s binding is progressive and that his house is being progressively destroyed is not valid. Mark 3:27 rules out such a conclusion by showing that Satan’s house cannot be entered until he is *first* bound. If the binding were progressive—a partial binding and a partial plundering—the binding could not occur first. Jesus *first* binds Satan and *then* spoils his goods. If Jesus did both at the same time, the word ‘first’ would be meaningless.”

“Moreover, the entry into Satan’s house cannot be thought of as the initial *parousia* of Christ’s Second Presence because then Satan would have to be bound first, i.e., *before* Jesus’ entry in 1874. The Lord, as a spirit being, has made several unhindered entries into earth’s atmosphere in both Old and New Testament times; during the Gospel Age the guardian angels, who are far less in rank and authority, have also gone to and fro. Thus an innumerable host of both holy and unholy angels occupy earth’s atmosphere **at the same time.**”<sup>4</sup> *Keys of Revelation*, p. 508

Who is the strong man? Satan. Are the goods his institutions and agencies? Does Babylon’s fall indicate Satan is fully bound? We think not. What, then, are his *goods*? His goods are his subjects, ***the people***. They are the children of the Wicked One. His ***house*** is the ***world*** whose ***kingdoms of this world*** he controls. “When the strong [man] fully armed guardeth his court [Strong’s #833 ***aule ow-lay***’ from the same as 109; a yard (as open to the wind)] (or outer perimeters of his palace), his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him his whole armor [defenses, systems of control] wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.” [Luke 11:21, 22 ASV] Again, the “strong man” is ***Satan*** or Beelzebub. The goods ***are the people*** or children of the Wicked One. His ***palace*** or house ***is the world***. It is ***his kingdom by usurpation***. He is ***the god*** of this world, the prince of this world. He is ***armed*** through those who serve him -- great has been ***his slaughter*** in the Dark Ages and ***Holocaust and will*** be with the remnant church, Great Company and Israel at Jacobs trouble. The stronger than he ***is Christ Jesus***. He is the same one of Revelation 20:1,2. His personal defenses that he thought were impregnable ***were not able to prevent*** his ***complete restraint*** by immovable chains. The ***spoils are the goods*** or ***people*** over whom Christ ***shall be king when*** his reign ***shall thus begin***.

### Satan’s Spoils

“Not only is it important to note that Satan must first be bound *before* his goods are spoiled, but the term ‘spoil’ needs to be defined. The common perception is that it signifies the disruption, smashing, and destruction of Satan’s kingdom. The true meaning of the Greek *diarpazo*, which is not to be confused with Webster’s definition in English, is to ***snatch away thoroughly***, to ***take possession*** of one’s goods. That these goods or spoils cannot be Satan’s institutions or systems of error, but must refer to something worthwhile, will now be proven.”

“In the concluding verses of Revelation 19, the false religious systems (beast and false prophet) and the kings of the earth, or this cosmos, are seen as already slain; and in Revelation 20 the binding of Satan is portrayed as a *subsequent* event—yet the “house” (see preceding columns of parallel Scriptures) ***is not even entered until the Adversary is first bound***. In this setting (Matt. 12:29; Luke 11:21,22; Mark 3:27), the ‘house’ refers to Satan’s citadel or center of control in earth’s circumambient atmosphere whence, amidst his fellow demons, he has successfully influenced and manipulated earth’s affairs. This domain or principality of power is to be cleansed and occupied by earth’s rightful invisible (‘the world seeth me no more’—John 14:19) ruler, Jesus, and his associates, thus constituting a ‘new heavens and a new earth’ (2Pet.

3:13). In summation: both the *house* and the *goods* are **TAKEN AS A SPOIL AND ARE NOT DESTROYED!**”

### Satan’s Armor

“The armor in which Satan trusts for his own personal safety would not be human institutions or falsehood, precious though they may be to him; nor can it be the satisfaction of his lust, vanity, prestige, or position. What then is the armor wherein he trusts that is to be taken away? The component parts of Satan’s armor are (a) a false confidence of his own indestructibility spawned by the observation that no spirit beings have hitherto been **known to die**, (b) a false confidence in his own strength and cunning, (c) a false confidence of protection from harm due to the legions of demons under his command, and (d) a false confidence that if and **when** he assumes human form, he can, at liberty, dematerialize. The ‘palace’ Satan guards (Luke 11:21) is rendered ‘courtyard’ in Matthew 26:69 (*Emphatic Diaglott*). It appears Satan’s house will be broken into sometime after the ‘third watch’ (Luke 12:38,39; cf. Mark 13:35).” *Keys of Revelation*, pps. 509, 510

The argument is raised, “In Matt. 24:43,44 we read about the ‘goodman of the house.’ There is a point I would like to make here that is important to us which would make this Scripture mute, if we were to take the view that Satan is to be bound in the future. That is that it cannot be in process but the total activity is future. In other words for this Scriptural statement to have meaning we must understand what Satan knows about what is going on. So it says, ‘Watch ye therefore for ye know not what hour your lord doth come; but know this that if the goodman of the house would know what watch the thief would come. He would have watched and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.’ Satan knows that Jesus has returned. I do not doubt that for a moment. If he knows he has returned *he can no longer be setting a watch*. It’s finished. It’s accomplished. Do we doubt that Satan knows that Jesus is returned. Does he not know what is going on in the spiritual realm? The premise is here that the goodman would not suffer the intruder to come *if he knew and when he was coming*. But he is here already. Therefore, if this Scripture is to have any meaning at all the process of the binding must have taken place. Because, if we are waiting for a *future* binding -- a future interaction against Satan, this *makes no sense anymore*. There is *nothing for him to wait for*. It’s done.” -- And so they say.

But we have to ask ourselves is that the true meaning of this Scripture? Did we understand it correctly? Considering it carefully, the Scripture reads: “But know this, that if the master of the house had known **in what watch the thief was coming**, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be **broken through** [or into].” (Matthew 24:43 ASV) It is true, the thief would be Jesus. In this case the master of the house would be Satan. Here Satan is called the “master of the house” and not the “goodman” as in the KJV. First, as to the “coming,” Pastor Russell assumed that this verse applied to the “*initial* coming” of Jesus in 1874, but such an application has several problems. The word “coming” can refer to any of several events during the Second Advent, just as it did at the First Advent. Which coming is referred to here? Jesus had no problem returning to earth’s atmosphere in 1874. Satan could not in any way prevented his coming here. How could two antagonistic powers occupy earth’s atmosphere at the same time? Two alien powers or nations can coexist even as two alien powers exist above – viz., Satan and Jesus. In other words, it is hard to see how Satan could be a deterrent to the personal coming of Jesus. Therefore the usual explanation of this verse does not fit. The house Satan would not allow to be entered is his headquarters or base of operation.

Verse 43 cannot refer to Jesus' coming in 1874 because he came into earth's atmosphere *on other occasions when Satan could not stop him*. The point here is if Satan could know in advance the very moment Jesus will come to his headquarters to bind him, the Adversary *would be prepared* and put up a fight to resist, thus throwing off God's time table. Therefore Satan *will not know in advance* the moment his house will be entered. "Or how can one enter into the house of the strong [man,] and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong [man]? and then he will spoil his house." (Matthew 12:29) Matthew 12:29 makes it very clear that Satan is bound "first," that is before his house is broken into. "First" means *first*. To get around these problems, some have tried to say Satan's binding is progressive. They say, as you have seen above, Satan is not bound but that he is *being bound*. However if he is being bound, he must be getting progressively curtailed. Otherwise, the English language is a mockery. If Satan is being bound, it would mean that he is more and more bound as time goes on and *this we do not see*. The word "first" cannot be ignored.

### **The Third Watch**

**Matthew 24:43** "But know this, that if the master of the house had known *in what watch* the thief was coming, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken through." So then what is meant by the expression "in what watch." In answer to this question we would like to refer to **Luke 12:36-38** "And be ye yourselves like unto men looking for their lord, when he shall return from the marriage feast; that, when he cometh and knocketh, they may straightway open unto him. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and shall come and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, and if *in the third [watch]*, and find [them] so blessed are those [servants]." Three periods of time are suggested: "second watch," "third watch" and implied first watch. There was a time when the Lord's people thought they would be gone in 1914. Let us call that the "second watch – not that it necessarily was, but just to establish principle. Inferentially, then, Jesus would *come to take the last members home* in the "third watch." It would be illustrated as follows:

#### **NIGHTTIME**

- 1st watch as a point of time = 9 p.m. (1878)
- 2nd watch as a point of time = 12 Midnight (1914)
- 3rd watch as a point of time = 3 a.m. (Date not known)

The Millennial day began in 1874, but 3 a.m. is *predawn, before* the sunrise, before the Sun of righteousness arises. At 6 a.m. the Kingdom will be inaugurated – at dawn, at sunrise. Mark 13:35 gives four time of expectancy. "Watch therefore: for ye know not when the lord of the house cometh, whether at (1) *even*, or at (2) *midnight*, or at (3) *cockcrowing*, or in the (4) *morning*." "Morning" (dawn, sunrise) would be too late to *come and take the last members home*, so it can be eliminated. Three other times remain, but two have passed, so again the third is when Jesus will come in this sense. The four can be considered from the standpoint of a year and not a day or an hour. A lot can happen in a year. The four periods of time breakdown as follows: "even" – 6-9 p.m.; "midnight" – 9-12 midnight; "cockcrowing" – 12-3 a.m.; "morning" – 3-6 a.m. Notice that 3 a.m. in the "third watch" is the *point of time* to both in the Mark and Luke accounts. (In the Mark 13:35 text, 3 a.m. at the end of the third watch and the beginning of the fourth watch.) At that point in time Jesus *will come for the last jewels*. (Last several

paragraphs taken whole or in part from *Shallieu Bible Commentary, Matthew 24* (1984, 1985), Page 41)

### **Satan's Wild Frenzy**

To conclude this part of the study on the binding of Satan, we would reference 2Thessalonians 2:8,9 as mentioned in *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 2, Antichrist's Final End* " 'Whose presence is with [accompanied by or during] an energetic operation of Satan [Satanic energy and action] with all power, and signs, and lying delusions, and with every iniquitous deception **for those perishing**; because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be preserved. And for this reason God will send to them a deluding power, that they might believe the error: so that all not believing the truth, but taking pleasure in iniquity, may be judged' unworthy to share the Millennial Kingdom as joint-heirs with Christ."

This shows that Satan will be very active at the end **in a wild frenzy** and very special way. The Greek word is "*energeia*" and it means just that. He will express a great deal of energy at that time. We should not be under the delusion that he has no power at present for that is far from the truth of the matter. Another thing to be considered is Rom. 4:16 -- "bruised under your feet shortly." When does this apply? Is it in conjunction with the binding of Satan with light now or at this end of the age? No. Since the word there signifies "**crush completely**," it will be at the time of Satan's end at the conclusion of the Millennial age.

### **CHRIST'S KINGDOM STILL FUTURE**

We conclude with 1Corinthians 4:8. From *What Pastor Russell Said*, Question Book, pages 117,118: "Is it scriptural to say the glorified members of the Church have reigned **at any time up to the present**? Answer **NO!** They **have NOT reigned at any time.... the reign of Christ did NOT in ANY sense begin in the past**. Our Catholic friends claim that Christ *began His reign* some time ago; and that for over a thousand years the Pope *has been the representative* of Christ AS KING OF EARTH; THAT IT **IS NOT** Christ Himself who is to *reign, but His vicegerent*, a title which they give to the Pope, meaning the one who rules instead of Christ."

"We think our Catholic friends are laboring **under a misapprehension**. They *do not* get the proper thought. You remember the Apostle says of some, Ye have reigned as kings in the earth; you are getting along very prosperously; you have had no trouble or persecution at all. Then after making fun of them a little, he says, I would to God **that ye did reign**; for **if** you did, **we would reign** with you!" 1Cor. 4:8.

"We hold that this **is still true**. When the REIGN OF CHRIST **BEGINS**, you will find it such a **thorough reign** that **all the members** of HIS BODY will have some part in it. So we assume that when OUR LORD'S [CHRIST'S] KINGDOM shall **begin its reign**, conditions for the whole world will be very much *changed*. IF the REIGN OF CHRIST should begin today, [1] the **SAINTS** WOULD BE *WITH* HIM; for HE IS TO BE THE **GREAT JUDGE**, THE SAINTS THE UNDER-JUDGES; [2] HE IS TO BE THE **GREAT KING**, THE SAINTS THE UNDER-KINGS: (3) HE IS TO BE THE **GREAT PRIEST**, THE SAINTS THE UNDER-PRIESTS – 'A Royal Priesthood,' 'Kings and priests unto God,' who 'shall reign **with** Christ a [or we would say **the**] thousand years.' We add that Christ and the Church will be that **GREAT PROPHET**. (Acts 3:19-23) Additionally, Rev. 20:4 clearly states (1) They were reigning **together** upon thrones. (2) They were **seated in Judgment of the world**. (3) They were **beheaded** for the witness of God's Word. "Ye have *not resisted* unto blood." (Heb. 12:4) And, importantly, THEY DID **NOT**

**WORSHIP** the “*hour of power*” *beast or image* – neither did they accept *their mark*. They reigned in *the* future Kingdom age with Christ.

We inject the simple remark from the Pastor here: "Our Lord *yet wears* his *sacrificial* garments, thus offering us up. He has **yet to put on** his *glorious* garments -- the high priest typified *the entire priesthood*." We add the thought, Jesus *was king* since his honoring and investiture with the divine nature *after his resurrection and at his honoring!* Revelation 14:14 thus shows he *already was* a divine *king*. He came *not as reigning king* over the nations *but as Chief Reaper of Harvest wheat*. Continuing: "The High Priest going forth *in glory* typifies...the *glory of the church joined* with her Head [Christ]..." We shall be like Him." John 3:2 "Another Scripture declares that we shall be His GLORIOUS BODY, OR HIS BODY OF GLORY, and that "We shall be GLORIFIED **TOGETHER**" with him. (Rom. 8:17; *What Pastor Russell Said*, Question Book, 285, 286) The suffering still goes on. "If we suffer with him, we shall reign with him." The Great Company escape goat *is not yet finished!* Lev. 16:20-23.]

Continuing the quote from Question Book, 117,118: "With His reign *will begin the reign* of righteousness, for the Scriptures intimate that *sin* will be *suppressed promptly*."

### **“THE” THOUSAND YEARS THE NAME OF THE AGE AND, WITHIN THE THOUSAND YEARS**

In brief, we know the Greek allows for this period of Christ’s reign to be described by the title, “**the**” thousand years, instead of by duration as “**a**” thousand years. Written Greek does **not** have vowels. So much is determined by context. If this period of reigning is correctly referred to by what we believe to be a general title, “**the**” thousand years, then **it would not have to be a full** one thousand years in duration.

Just to demonstrate this, the first observation or comparison, we would like to bring to your attention is that we can consider Adam as being **lord of the earth for a thousand-year day**. You recall Adam was created, based on our Chronology, 4128 BC. And he lived to be 930 years old before he died. “for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die (Heb. Dying, thou shalt die).” (Gen. 2:17) If we reckon him to be lord of the earth for a thousand-year day, but he only lived 930 years, we think the same kind of illustration, is intended by Scripture *at this end of the age*. *The Second Adam* will be Lord of the earth **for a thousand-year day** or “**the**” thousand-year day. But *not that it has to be a full thousand years in duration*, just as Adam’s **was not** a full thousand years in duration.

Also, the concept, that as a consequence of sin, Adam began his fall during the course of his lifetime (928 years of the dying process) and that has its counterpart in the Second Adam. That restitution would be a part of the reign of Christ as the Second Adam.

In Romans 5:17, it says, “For if by one man’s offense, death **reigned** by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall **reign** in life by one, Jesus Christ.”

Again the general illustration is that each can be described as being **lord** of the earth. But, when we look at it, it does not necessarily mean that *it has to be a full* thousand years in duration.

Now if one believes that the reign *is* a **full** thousand years, then they would have to believe that the Church *is reigning now*, based on the Scripture in Revelation 20:6 and other verses that was cited earlier. Let us read the citation from Revelation 20:6.

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection. On such the second death hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with him a thousand years (or as we would prefer [by M.S. choice] **“the” thousand years**. But if they take it to be a literal thousand years, they would **have to believe** that **Christ is reigning with the Church** and some are **still here** in the flesh. Or, as another thought, that has been presented in more recent years, that there are two separate thousand-year periods. And we think that neither of these harmonize as well as giving consideration to the thought that the thousand years need not be a full thousand years in duration.

We note here, in conjunction with the computer *Bible Students Library CD* examination, the consistent theme of the Pastor was that the **“reign of sin”** of the present **is in contrast with Christ's reign**, which is concurrent with **“the reign of righteousness.”** We make **NO metaphorical distinctions** such as “Glorious” or “Mediatorial,” etc., with the term **“reign.”** The Reign of Christ **IS the reign** of Christ. To do otherwise would be supportive of adjunctive, dogmatic, divisive, theoretical applications **successive** to the Pastor's death. May God help us all in the study of His Word to the blessing and edification of His people. May we be of those who hear “Well done, good and faithful servant: enter now into they joy of thy Lord.” (Matt. 25:21) We have been greatly blessed beyond measure in this Harvest time. We want to give special thanks to all those who have helped us along the way – *fellow servants*. “The hosts of sin are pressing hard to keep thee from the prize.” “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31-39)

Our prayer is, for that glorious **Kingdom to come**, O glorious God, our Father. Let **thy will pervade** the earth. As your will is done in heaven, so **let it be done on earth** and **end** earth's “weary night.” Amen. Amen. ■ *Hymn 327*

Charles L. Thornton,  
In Part from the

**Rockland Convention, New York, February 27, 2000**

Extensive additional study notes from various sources were added. Concluded October 1, 2001

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**HELPFUL WORDS OF DISCERNMENT AND UNDERSTANDING.** We have no authority from the Divine Word to castigate someone who is earnestly searching the Scriptures as did the Bereans of old and to place such or others in the Great Company or as a goat class, just because things are seen differently than they do. This would be in the spirit and practice of Babylon and that of the modern day Watchtower Society. Of such spirit we must have no part.

Also, we may not establish a **“credo” (I believe)** and say we must take action to prevent others who may not agree on certain non-basic teachings of a prophetic nature and say, We will take certain concerted action against them, defame them and/or cast them from our midst. The Pastor well stated the matter in the Photo Drama, “Creation.” Let us not be of those whom the LORD styles, “wicked.” “The wicked shoot out bitter words against the righteous – brethren.” We are to “speak often one with another” – to communicate and commune on His Word and with his Spirit to His people and in the way that Jesus taught – love. “Love one another even as I have loved you.”



NOTES

**We would like to address certain references of the Pastor.**

**SITS, Volume 3, 1916 Foreword, iii, iv** This reference shows the reign over earth future with the entire Church with him. We quote as follows: “His [Christ’s] members *must be completed before He will officially take His position as the King of the world.* The inspired Word gives assurance of this fact: “When Christ, who is our Life, shall appear, then shall *we also appear with Him in glory.*” (*Col. 3:4*) .... The *full number* of the Elect *must be found and be glorified* by the resurrection “change”--because “flesh and blood cannot *inherit the Kingdom of God.*” (*1 Cor. 15:50*) *Then the dominion of the world will be assumed.* The *glorified One will ask of the Father,* and *He will give Him* the heathen [nations] for His inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth *for His possession.* “*He will rule them* with a rod of iron. As the vessels of a potter shall they be broken into shivers.” (*Psa. 2: [8,9] ; Rev. 2:27*) .... *The Messiah, the Elect of God, will take the control* and speak peace to the tumultuous peoples and bring order out of confusion, joy out of tears, praise out of despair. Thus the Kingdom of Messiah will be born in a terrible travail; but the glorious results will more than compensate for the “Time of Trouble such as never was *since there was a nation.*” Thus we are told, “The desire of all nations shall come.” (*Haggai 2:7*)”

ZWT Reprints, Pages 6011 to 6016, December 1, 1916 (*posthumous*)

*While we would agree with a number of things said in this article, as emphasized below,* it should be kept in mind that this sermon was delivered on November 12, 1916 by none other than the Judge. He was an *ambitious* brother who was dismissed by the Pastor 6 months prior to the Pastor’s death. He rushed back and took control, illegally dismissed the Board of Directors and centralized all power in himself. The Pastor’s will, over which the Judge had presided, was missing. See *Light After Darkness, 1917.* In short, he was a man *of no integrity* and who changed basic teachings of Truth. What he may have done with both the discourse of November 12 and the Watch Tower article of November 15, 1916 (even though the name of the Pastor still appeared as Editor on that issue) *is suspect.* ***For this very reason, articles through 1918 are not reprinted.***

**The Morning Cometh and A Night Also** (ZWT, November 15, 1916 CTR Sermon delivered after the Pastor’s death by Jos. Rutherford.) (*posthumous*) Some use this article to prove the reign of Christ began in 1874. Though we recognize the article as *suspect,* contrary expressions to a reign begun are used like: “*under a reign of Sin and Death, not under a Reign of Righteousness and Life*” and also, “that Messiah, *in the Father's appointed time, will take* to Himself *His great power and reign King of kings and Lord of lords*--putting down sin and every evil thing, uplifting humanity and granting a Divine blessing where...there has been a Divine curse.” Finally, the statement is made, “Then *the third phase* of the calamity--the darkest

of all--will be *the symbolic fire of anarchy*, which will utterly destroy our present civilization. Then, in the midst of *that most awful Time of Trouble*, Messiah, the great King, *will take His great power* and will exercise it, with the result that the raging waves of the sea of human passion will all be quieted, the fires of anarchy will all be extinguished, *and the Reign of Righteousness and Peace will begin.*” Seeing that there *are differing articles* and in order to come to a proper conclusion concerning the reign, the Bible Student must prove these things or “search the Scriptures” just like, as did those Bereans of old. (John 5:39; Acts 17:10,11)

**ZWT Reprint, Page 5989, November 15, 1916, The Earth Trembled and Fell.**  
(Posthumous)

**Note:** We were familiar with this article in the previous study on the Reign of Christ, in 1968, and were of the realization that, in reality, *we could not be sure of its authentication.* A careful examination of the 97<sup>th</sup> Psalm *would show that it would be in serious conflict* other statements. It also conflicts *with the contextual reality of the Psalm to say that we were living under the reign of Jehovah God.* As Brother Russell, himself said, *it would be “a poor reign.”* (What Pastor Russell Said, Question Book, 117) See our comments in this lesson on Psalm 97.

## Foundation Roots

**In the study of truth literature, early or late, our primary interest should be coming as closely as possible to truth that is backed by the Word of God. We emphasize again, that we are Bible Students. We should want to communicate with one another in the interest of understanding. Without this attitude, we would be no better than the Society who curtailed the right to speak, excommunicated God’s people, categorizing and classifying them as heretical goats. Back then the judge informed his “Bible Students” to shun other Bible Students, turn their backs away from them, not to speak to them, and to sing them down in testimony meetings – all things similar to deeds done in the dark ages. Anyone, who is not free to speak, is not free to understand. He is in the “bondage” that he was told to leave and is not “free indeed.”**

*Many additional references.* Following this study, we may present the various article references as given in the former study on the reign of Christ in order *to show varied viewpoints* of the reign contained in the harvest message. In the end, determination *is an individual matter.* We can only hope that this study is beneficial in the direction of a more accurate understanding of that message and its relationship to God’s Word. Much help that we have received has come from the message of “that servant” and seventh messenger of “present truth” and those “sign men,” “those servants” of God, along the way *who have enriched our faith.* God has not left us *as orphans* in our time. His help is there *to this day for those willing to look for it.*

■ CLT, October 1, 2000

## ZWT REFERENCES PERTAINING TO THE REIGN

(This is only a partial list from a previous study)

These references are NOT intended to show, from the Pastor's standpoint, correctness in application; but rather, that his thinking was along this line of a future Reign. That must be individually proven from the Scriptures -- which is our own responsibility.

**1,000 YEARS PRESENCE** – “The time of His presence *is the entire thousand years of His* Reign.”  
Article: “The Risen Christ”--R. 5832,(1916), (M)

**1,000 YEARS & BINDING** – “*When this Kingdom is set up, the Lord Jesus will bind that `old serpent, the Devil,' with a great chain, that he may deceive the nations no more for a thousand years, while Christ will be lifting up all mankind from sin...*” R. 5896, c 1:3, (1916), (F)

**MILLENNIUM & TROUBLE** – “*If our understanding of the Bible's teaching is correct, we are on the threshold of the Millennium.* ...Statistics agree that the millennium is not coming by the conversion of the heathen ... by the Great time of trouble the Scriptures assure us, Messiah's Kingdom will be ushered in...” R. 5970, c 2:2,3, (1916), (F)

**PLEASE NOTE:** As before stated, the Scriptures DO NOT make a distinction as to a reign "of righteousness" or any other denomination. The reign IS the reign. The church must be completed and glorified before the reign in any sense begins. Satan's empire must first be ended and he must be personally bound at once - not piecemeal. These things have not yet happened.]

**REIGN** – “How we long for the time when the true knowledge of God shall fill the earth; *when the Kingdom of Messiah will have really come, and the church of Christ will be with him as his bride and joint heir;* when the reign of righteousness will fill the earth with blessings, physical, mental, moral, uplifting, resurrecting.” R. 5854, c 1:1, (1916), (F)

21

**REIGN** – “...a share with the Redeemer in the privileges of the Millennial Kingdom, *which is to shortly bless the world with a Reign of righteousness, in fulfillment of the Lord's prayer, Thy kingdom come...*” R. 5960, orig. Page ,284, c 1:1, “St. Paul's Defense,” (1916), (F)

**REIGN** – “We *deny that anybody has ever had the right to set up Christ's Kingdom;* and that *we still properly pray* the Master's prayer, *Thy Kingdom come.*” R. 5853, c 2:3, (1916) (F)

**REIGN** – “He (*Christ*) *is to be the world's King of Glory* and is to reign a thousand years.” R. 5847, c 2:1, (1916), (F)

**REIGN & TROUBLE** – “But the people of God should preeminently stand for law and order, with as much justice as may be attainable, waiting for absolute justice *until the King of kings shall take his Millennial throne.*” R. 5952, c2:4, (1916), (F)

22

**REIGN & TROUBLE** – “The kingdoms of this world which *...are really under the control of the “Prince of the world” Satan ...* It means the shaking of society in a manner and to an extent never before known. Heb. 12. It means *the breaking in pieces the empires and governments of the world as a potter's vessel.*” R. 5917v c 1:3, (1916), (F)

**REIGN** – “As men see that the Son of men is *about to take his great power and that the Messianic is coming in.*” R. 5697, c 1:4, (1915), (F)

**REIGN & TROUBLE** – “We *are still waiting for the entrance for the King of Glory* in the full sense of the word. He declares that he will *be revealed* in flaming fire...” R. 5681, c 2:8, (1915), (F)

**REIGN** – “However *before* that grand condition can be realized, it will be necessary for the *Messiah to take his great power* and reign.” R. 5646, c 2:3, (1915), (F)

23

**REIGN** – “In the *meantime the kingdom class will have been glorified, and our great king will have taken to himself his great power and with the elect...*” R. 5569, c 1:6, (1914), (F)

**REIGN** – “When our king *comes in and begins his reign, and we are exalted with him,* we will...” R. 5529, c 2:5, (1914), (F)

**REIGN & TROUBLE** - “We understand that Christ's kingdom is associated with this (war [and war 2, pictured as the wind in 1Kings 19] weakening, etc.) in the sense that *Christ is about to take to himself his great power and reign.*” R. 5527, c 1: top, (1914), (F)

**1,000 YEARS** – “To be referring to the great seventh day, *the thousand year day (last day) of his kingdom.*” R. 5696, c 1:3, (1915), (M)

**JEW NO LONGER TRODDEN** – “Note the fact that promptly at the close of the Jewish year in September, Russia published her decree *giving the Jews full religious liberty and privileges as citizens.* Germany quickly followed. Great *Britain also honored the Jews.* Legally, therefore, the Jew today--since the close of Gentile Times--is *accorded the same liberties as other people.* He *is no longer “trodden down* of the Gentiles.” [Since Sept. 1914] R. 5599, c 2:1, (December, 1914), (J)

**REIGN** – “...blessings and restoration of order to *be accomplished by the reign of Christ,* now, we believe, *very near at hand.*” R. 5574. c. 1:3, (November, 1914), (F)

24

**REIGN & TROUBLE** – “The world will be prepared for the grand change of government in no other way than through “*a Time of Trouble such as never was since there was a nation*” (Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21) *Messiah is ABOUT to STAND FORTH, clothed with Divine*

*power, to take to Himself His great power and reign* for the blessing of all the families of the earth.” R.5805; c 2:4, November, 1915, (F)

25

REIGN - Question Book, Page Q 117:2:

QUESTION (1912-Z)--2-“Is it scriptural to say that the glorified members of the Church have reigned at any time up to the present?”

ANSWER –“No! *They have not reigned at any time.*”

(Page Q 118) “The *reign of Christ did not in any sense begin in the past.*”

“...I would to God that ye did reign; for if you did, *we would reign with you.* (1Cor. 4:8) We hold *that this is still true. When the reign of Christ begins, you will find it such a thorough reign that all the members of His Body will have some part in it* So we assume that *when our Lord's Kingdom shall begin its reign,* conditions for the whole world will be very much changed. *If the reign of Christ should begin today, the saints would be with Him;* for He is to be the great Judge, the saints the under judges; He is to be the great King, the saints the under-kings; He is to be the great Priest, the saints the under-priests- ‘A Royal Priesthood,’ ‘Kings and priests unto God,’ who *‘shall reign with Christ a\* thousand years.’ With His reign will begin the reign of righteousness, for the Scriptures intimate that sin will be suppressed promptly.*” [\*See Page 36 re “a”]

28

1,000 & 7th THOUSAND YEAR - INTRODUCTION TO Part I and Part H (Not in print - on recording only. From the Pastor's own voice):

“The Photo Drama of Creation presents the seven days of creation as seven Epochs -- each Seven Thousand Years long -- and the Seventh as not yet complete. In this view, one thousand years of the Seventh Day remain, during which earth and her population will reach the grand perfection designed by the Creator.”

“It is held that this final thousand years HAS ALREADY BEGUN. To this FACT is accredited the GREAT PROGRESS of our day intellectually and materially. In other words, the Great Seventh Day of the Genesis account is, itself, a great Week -- each day of which is ONE THOUSAND YEARS LONG. The six already past have been MAN'S WORK WEEK or struggle against sin and death under the curse pronounced in Eden. Now the Great Sabbath is BEGINNING.”

“It is as God has promised that the curse SHALL ROLL AWAY from before the blessings of Messiah's Kingdom ... for which so long we have prayed, “Thy Kingdom come” and or which we have so often sung as ‘the sweet by and by’” “Let us keep in mind the great Bible FACT that

creation is not yet complete. The completed creation will find our earth a paradise and filled with a perfect and happy human family in harmony with the Creator.

“Thereafter there shall be no more sin, sorrow, sighing or dying. The curse of death will have been rolled away by the Redeemer and the BLESSING OF GOD will be upon ALL -- EVERLASTING LIFE -- for all willful sinners will have been destroyed in the Second Death.

“At the conclusion, let us sing ‘A Thousand -Years, Earth's Coming Glory’” -- *Introduction Part I & II Photo Drama of "Creation,"* (1914), (M) (EXCELLENT)

37

**STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, VOL. 3, Foreword, Page iii, iv (1916)**

.....\_“His [Christ's] *members must be completed before He will officially take His position as the King of the world.* Assurance of this fact is given by the inspired Word: ‘When Christ, who is our Life, shall appear, *then shall we also appear with Him in glory.*’ (Col. 3:4) Next in order the Master deals with the living members of His Body, the Church. As shown in the parables of the pounds and the talents, the Master's judgment concerning worthiness or unworthiness in the Kingdom must pass upon all of His consecrated *ones and the full number of the Elect must be found and be glorified by the resurrection ‘change’*--because “flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.” (1 Cor. 15:50) *Then the dominion of the world will be assumed. The glorified One will ask of the Father, and He will give Him the heathen for His inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession. ‘He will rule them with a rod of iron. As the vessels of a potter shall they be broken into shivers.’* (Psa. 2, Rev. 2:27)

“This *revealing of the Son of Man to the world by His assumption of power* and His permission of the world to pass into *the great ordeal of anarchy is evidently nearing.*” [BSL'99CD]

**PLEASE NOTE** --\_This is a mere sampling of Pastor, Charles T. Russell’s references to the REIGN and TIME OF TROUBLE as applied to Future events, from a previous study.

**EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS**

5829, c 2:2 means R. 5829, column 2, paragraph 2.

5950, c 1:5 means R. 5950, column 1, paragraph 5, etc.

R. = Reprints

QB = Question Book

PDC = Photo-Drama of Creation.

(F) Future

(J) Jew

(M) Millennium

**HEAVENLY TRUTH**

“Praise to Him by whose kind favor  
Heavenly truth has reached our ears;

May its sweet, reviving savor  
Fill our hearts and calm our fears.

Truth how sacred is the treasure!  
Teach us, Lord, its worth to know,  
Vain the hope, and short the pleasure,  
Which from other sources flow.”

-- Hymns of Millennial Dawn 238

## Christ's Reign -- Preaching and Proclaiming

(A comparison between Romans 10:15 and Isaiah 52:7)

Supplement to page 25, Paragraph 4

*“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?<sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:14,15 (KJV)*

*“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!” Isaiah 52:7 (New KJV)*

This is a quotation from the Old Testament. We believe that the Apostle Paul is properly applying it in principle or abstract. But when you go back to the Old Testament, the setting there *is quite different*. There it is showing a Kingdom setting. This is a popular Scripture on which many are convinced that they have the correct understanding because Paul is quoting it. But, he is indicating that God's method is to inform those who are hungering and thirsting for an understanding of God and His Word. The Scripture being considered refers not to Jesus' feet but to those of Jehovah who in Isaiah 52:7 is described in the singular. In Isaiah it is described there as “him” and not “them.” The “feet” *are* plural but the “him” is Jehovah (*singular*).

The feet, described in Isaiah 52 are a class *in the Kingdom age*. These, as we said, are the feet that are going to be on the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives splits. This is the deliverance scene of the Holy Remnant. This *primarily inaugurates* the Kingdom. The events of that day will seem like a twenty-four hour event; but they shall be one event after another event, after another event. It will be a very short period of time and the message will be proclaimed. Then there will be a class that go back to their country from which they came and say, “We have seen with our own eyes and we have heard with our own ears.” And so, they can give personal

testimony to the remarkable events in connection with the deliverance of the Holy Remnant of Israel from utter destruction. Then, in rescuing His people, Jehovah shall intervene as He did in the days of old. The Ancient Worthies will also appear.

In Romans 10:15 Paul is giving the current application *in his day*. It should be remembered that he *is making application in principle* of this Scripture *applied back then* when he was on the scene. He did not apply that Scripture (Isa. 52:7) in the sense that it would *take effect* when Jesus *returned as king* and that the feet there [thought to be the Saints on earth], at that time (1874), would have to do with the “publishing” of the “good news.” By extension it would therefore, in the principle, apply down *throughout* the entire Gospel age in that Paul *did not include the remaining phrase*, “That saith unto Zion, Thy God reigns.” If he did it would *contradict 1Cor. 4:8*. He *did not* say that and we *may not*, therefore, make the “them” (Rom.10:15) as *now*, since 1874, *the proclaimers* that God’s Kingdom *has indeed come!*

God is the artist and *paints the pictures* as He does. And so now, as this Scripture of Isaiah 52 is to be fulfilled *to make manifest to ALL the inauguration of the Kingdom*. They are not then all believers. Let us take an example. When Jesus cast out the money changers and overturned the tables, he quotes the Scripture, “*It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*” (Matt. 21:13) He quotes a Scripture in the Old Testament that has not an application at the first advent of his time but has to do with a future prophecy yet to be fulfilled of which speaks concerning the House *of the future* that is to be built – the Third Temple.

What he is saying is, God has honored the Moses Tabernacle. He honored Solomon’s Temple. The Temple was used by Him and, therefore, it should be a house of prayer for all people. But the Scripture that Jesus quotes actually *has a time setting of when* this thing has been in operation for some time *and all nations are aware* that it is available for prayer.

Concerning Isaiah 52, when we are reading this, the tendency is to spiritualize *everything*. But there are a few component parts that show that the *pertinent application is to natural Israel*. And that it speaks of “the waste places *of Jerusalem*” and “for He has *comforted His people*.” It is repeated enough so that *you could say all this has not been fulfilled*. Verse four of Isaiah 52 says, “For thus saith the Lord GOD, My people went down aforetime into Egypt to sojourn there; and the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.” Obviously, that is **not** spiritual and **neither are those** before it.

The tenth verse, “The LORD (Jehovah) has *made bare his holy arm* in the eyes of all nations.” Well *that hasn’t happened*. And when he makes bear His arm in the eyes of all nations, it means what? It means that He is *manifesting His anger* and He is going to do something about it. (From a natural standpoint, it would be like the rolling up the sleeve is that you are disturbed and is a symbol of anger). Jehovah *has not yet made bare his holy arm* in the eyes of all nations. So this is a prophecy *of the future*.

Yet, the first part of this Scripture is definitely used by the Apostle Paul. This has been used as a very prominent Scripture in connection with the present truth movement or harvest work. We think properly so, **IF** it is understood that you are taking it **AS a principle** and not as a reality *that what you are doing now* is THE fulfillment. You are being moved to proclaim a message that has blessed you. You would like others to know what God has done for you in the forgiveness of your sins. And also the knowledge that there is a God and that He has a purpose and that it is a benevolent one and that it is very real. This Scripture, *with the principle* there, is very, very good. It is a message of salvation. It is a message that says that God, not only exists, but that He inherently has not lost control at all, no matter what we see of the permission of evil.



But that is *not* what this Scripture is specifically talking about in the context where it is found. *That is future*. It should also be pointed out that this Scripture is quoted in Nahum 1:15. “Behold, on the mountains the feet *of him* who brings good tidings, who *proclaims* peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, perform your vows. for *the wicked one shall no more pass through you; he is utterly cut off.*” This is a little more succinct, in that it is only a few verses. It likewise applies to the time when the enemies of Israel shall be put down and God’s Kingdom rules. Thus, we *do not agree* just because the Scripture term “them” is used by the Apostle Paul in Romans, therefore we must adjust our thinking about Isaiah 52:7 so that both may be brought into agreement of application. We think that Scripture of Isaiah has a *beautiful harmony within the context* of the Old Testament and displays the deliverance of Israel *and* their declaration of the good news and salvation both to them and all mankind because Jehovah *then* reigns. ■

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Photo Drama Of Creation

## THE TRIAL OF PERSECUTION

*“All that live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution.” 2Tim. 3:12 . “Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry **day and night** unto him, though he bear long time with them. I tell you he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes will he find **the faith** upon the earth.” Luke 18:7,8*

“All that live godly in Christ Jesus shall *suffer persecution.*” There is no exception to this rule; and the knowledge and expectation of this should make us stand fast, having on the breastplate of righteousness, and having our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. God allows his people to have these experiences and to *suffer for right.* Those whom He is calling at this time are called to be saints. They are to be the Royal Priesthood, who in the Kingdom age, future, shall bring the blessing to all the people.

*The purpose of trials* are to prove and to *test the characters* of the Lord's people. We are told that God wants to see *how loyal we are* to the *principles* of righteousness. *How much* are we willing to suffer for Christ's sake? The adversary would say, “Every man has his price.” And so, in the church, there are some who will endure so much *and then back away.* Some will take a little *more* and others a *little more.* God declares that he is seeking those who would be willing to *give up everything* in order to *prove faithful* in *obedience* to their covenant with Him. That faithfulness means being loyal to Jehovah God and to His laws which are the **standards** of righteousness.

Let us consider now, the persecutions of the church of Christ. Jesus said, “*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye,*

when men shall revile you and say all manner of evil against you, lying, for my name sake, Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you for my name sake.” (Matt. 5:10-12) The true saints of God **have never counted** their lives dear unto them from earliest dawn of man's history.

**A Faithful Cloud of Witnesses** - Examples to the Church. (Heb. 12:1) We would first like to read concerning these, in the 11th Chapter of the Book of Hebrews. They **believed** God and were **willing to suffer** for their faith's convictions - **even to death**. Such were referred to as being a “so great a cloud of witnesses” much like and perhaps endured even *more* than those of this Christian Age.

**Noah, the preacher of righteousness** proclaimed God's Word in the face of those “whose thoughts were evil continually” “and the earth was filled with violence,” *was taunted* by wicked angels and hybrids, Satan and men, in the world that ended by flood annihilation, fearlessly proclaimed God's Word. Noah's faith and preaching continued for an *unbelievable* time of 120 years and directly in the midst of Satan and the wicked spirits! (Gen. 6:5,11; 6:3)

**Joseph - Was Persecuted by His Brethren**. He was **cast in a pit** and **left there to die**. Joseph's faith stood the test of time. There was no guarantee that he would be delivered - even with the incident of Pottifer's wife and his imprisonment. His faith endured amidst persecution. He was given the reward of being next in the throne to Pharaoh -- a type of Christ. (Gen.39:20)

**Moses Refused to be Called the Son of Pharaoh's Daughter**, “Choosing rather to *suffer affliction* (persecutions) with the people of God than to enjoy *the pleasures of sin* for a season.” (Heb. 11:25) As St. Paul beautifully put it, “Esteeming **the reproach for Christ** greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect *unto the recompense* of reward.” Vs. 26. By Faith, he stood in the face of certain death by Pharaoh, was **persecuted by his brethren**, by conspirators to rule, endured their bickerings, rebellions and divisiveness. In the end he was victorious. God called him -- “My servant Moses; He **is faithful in all My house**. I speak with him **face to face**.” (Num. 12:7,8) God **surely loved** him and will reward him in the coming Kingdom and ages.

**Gideon and His Faithful, Chosen Band** of Three Hundred in the defeat of the Mideanites, were types of the Church **in the end**. We see that **coming union** - even now already progressed in Europe. Jud. 7:7,8

**Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Did Not Fear** and by faith were loyal **in the face of persecution** when betrayed by others. They said, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, We **are not afraid** to answer you in this matter, **if it be so**, our God, (Jehovah), whom we serve is **able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace! **But, if not**, be it known unto thee, O King, that we **WILL NOT SERVE THY GODS NOR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE WHICH THOU HAST SET UP!!**” (Dan. 3:16-18) Thus, they pictured **faithfulness under trial** in the end time church when the **image** (Protestantism) and **the beast (Papacy) were united in church union** and whose **cords of flesh** were burned. (Dan. 3:24,25)

**Daniel an example of Faith**, along with those three just mentioned, **refused to eat** the king's (Christendom's) meat or drink -- and God gave them all **wisdom (Truth) ten times better** than all the magicians (Dan. 1:12,13,20) Later **came their persecutions**. Under Darius the Mede, he, because of **obedient faith under persecution** was cast in the lions den and was miraculously and **delivered** by the angel. (Dan. 6:16-24) Later, after interpreting the handwriting (judgment message) to Belshazzar, he was offered a scarlet robe, gold chain and 3rd in the kingdom (**rewards of the church**) -- **not to be given by the king; but by God**.

**Christ Jesus, our great exemplar in loyalty, did not shrink under persecution** but demonstrated faithfulness and obedience to Jehovah, God, His Father. “He became **obedient**

*unto death* -- even the death of the Cross." (Phil. 2:8) Jesus "endured *the contradiction of sinners* against himself" and *endured the cross*, despising the shame and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:3,2) "He was **despised and rejected of men**, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." (Isa 53:3-12) They shoot out their lip saying, Let *him deliver him*, if he delight in him. He suffered the greatest -- "even the *cruel death* of the cross." (Psa.22:6-8)

Jesus said, whoever would deny him, *he would* "deny before the Father in heaven." (Matt. 10:32,33) He is confessed in the life, conduct and words of those who have come unto him. None could deny him *who never have acknowledged him*. Whoever ignores the master's teaching, *misrepresents* him, denies him and *will not share* in the portion of the bride. Further, "Whoever would be *ashamed of him* or *of his Word*, of him would the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall *come in his own glory*." (Luke 9:26) Herein lies *our* responsibility, each one, concerning *our obedience under trial* that shall surely come. Jesus was called "the Prince of Demons." "The servant is not above his Lord." (Matt. 10:24-28)

The first Christian martyr was Stephen -- a most *outstanding witness* in *trial and death*. (Acts. 7:54-60) In the early development of the church, *Satan sought to destroy it* through the efforts of Nero and Diocletian -- *extreme persecutions to death*. A few months after Paul was set at liberty, a great fire burst forth in the city of Rome. Nero enjoyed the sight of Rome's burning from his palace singing and dancing the mime of "the burning of Troy." Nero reportedly *caused* the fire, and to avert suspicion, charged *innocent Christians*. *Multitudes* of every age and sex, were arrested. Those Christians, *unpopular* with their heathen neighbors and Jews were made *scapegoats* and *suffered dreadfully*. They were *slain* with the sword *put in amphitheaters*, they were *covered with skins* of wild beasts, *torn to pieces* by dogs, wrapped *in sheets of pitch*, tied to stakes *and set on fire*. Nero, *Satan's chief agent*, drove among the people in his chariot, *lighted by the fires* of these hideous *human torches*.

It is interesting to note that Satan, himself, *instigated this terror* on those Christians *with whom Paul had association*. It should also be borne in mind that this was the *early Christian* church who lived in one of *the more enlightened* times of this Gospel age (*the early rain*) and that there were *a multitude "persecuted unto death for righteousness sake" in this onslaught*. We may *never, never* be off guard in the realization that such a thing could ever happen now or in the near future. He was then and is now a *very, very*, wily and *formidable* foe -- *the Adversary of God*. Nor was he a friend to those who endured "dungeon, fire and sword" during the *vicious acts of Papacy* by *papal-civil instigated* slaughter and the *inquisition* of the "Dark Ages." We believe that this *is his preferred method of eliminating* those who would be opposed to the Devil and his cause.

*Modern Day Preparations for Extreme Persecution*. The only thing *lacking* today, is Papal/Protestant *church-state control*. And that is **not** far away. He proposes to use that great civil dragon to go after "the remnant of her seed" (Rev. 12:17) through those **civil powers** but under *religious direction and domination*. We can see how this is being done in these United States. The present Pope has, as early as **1984**, *sought Church Union* with the separated Protestants. The Christian Right *is agreeable* to concerted action. There have been challenges from the Presidency and others from that system concerning what they refer to *as cults*. The Pope asserted last year, before he came to St. Louis, that Mexico should *deal with the Protestant cults*.

*A Union of Civil Powers*. Already Europe is fettered with the Dream of Charles DeGaul and the Pope, then and now, -- a European *Civil Union*, the EU. In these United States, there has

been a concerted effort to defeat the U. S. Constitution's, 1st Amendment policy of *Separation of Church and State*. Mr. Bush declares there *is nothing wrong with Church and State* and support of *religious parochial* schools. His counterpart Mr. McCain is in agreement both on abortion and *support of private and Parochial schools*. Church/State funding of **Parochial schools** is a Constitutional issue that has been *refused ruling by the heavily-weighted Catholic US Supreme Court*. Two Roman Catholic Governors of Wisconsin and Michigan, and the Mayor of New York, who strongly support Parochial aid, have pressed the matter. The intent is to *by-and-large defeat* and destroy the Public *non-church schools* begun by Congress in Post Constitution 1825. The Adversary is now working *in a full frenzy*, (GK. "energia"), of delusion. (1Thes. 2:9-12)

*The Catholic Counter Reformation*. Why do we mention this? It is because history tells us that the Counter Reformation almost destroyed the Reformation and *turned back millions into Papacy* through the efforts of Ignatius Loyola. Loyola formed the Jesuits and their schools *with the intent of catechizing the young minds* of those *reformed* young children in their parochial schools – *conversion mills*. Today, *by that means, they hope to gain control of the courts, the Presidency and the congress and impose Papal rule in this Fair Land*. By means of *numbers and control*, they would be free to "**make war** against the lamb" (Rev. 17:14) in persecution unto death of "the remnant" of Saints. (Rev. 12:17) They are succeeding. A nun superintendent reported "**90 %** of those now attending Detroit Catholic schools *are non Catholic*" and said that they "believe in a *(Catholic) faith based* education" – a *shocking* statement! The Pastor wrote several articles on Papal designs on American Public schools. They now have *voucher* public money and *no one is stopping them*.

*Nine churches have joined the Protestant /Catholic Union*. (Isa. 34:4) The Lutheran church recently joined Rome on the date of Luther's thesis at Wittenburg, **October 31**, 1999. The Catholic-Lutheran agreement was signed at Augsburg - the city of *the original Lutheran confession*. Roman Catholicism, who as Herodious, **the Mother**, has made **powerful** increases, **great changes** in America in many ways *approaching towards 100 million*. In England, the Scots *are calling for a British Catholic King*. Last week Catholics *aggressively* called for a *Catholic Chaplain* in the U. S. Congress *and charged prejudice* as they have not had any for 220 years. Post script: On the spot, they got their new Catholic Chaplain, Priest Daniel Coughlin. House Speaker Hertel declared we do not want to be considered a bigot. The Speaker did not realize that the Priest could come in contact with sensitive government information which would be relayed to his superiors in the foreign Papal power of Rome. Satan is *working hard with his primary system*. However the *daughter*, Salome (or Protestantism), *will do* the bidding of *the mother* in conjunction with the beheading of John the Baptist. It is interesting to note, that it was on Herod's (who represented the civil powers) *birthday*. It was John the Baptist who condemned *the Mother's* illicit union. (Matt 14:3-12)

*The Harvest Message and Persecution*. The Pastor writes, "The Lord's people *should be prepared to suffer similarly for the truth*, whether called upon to do so or not. It seems improbable that anything *so dreadful* should occur in our enlightened day; and yet we have various Scriptural reasons for expecting, that *within 10 years all who stand faithfully and boldly for the truth will suffer to a considerable extent -- some of them quite probably unto death.*" He continues, "What *charge* could be brought against them? We answer, **the same charge** that could be brought against their brethren of **Paul's day** -- they were **unpopular**, the *world hates them*; their *loyalty* to truth and principle will hinder them from being highly esteemed among men, and *probably make them a scape goat* for *evil-doers*. It was about *two years* after this

conflagration, that the Apostle was *arrested, imprisoned, and, very shortly after, beheaded.*" (*Zion's Watch Tower*, Reprints, 3210, 186) There is a challenge to God's people, 'When the Son of Man comes will he find **THE faith** on the earth?' – "the faith once given to the saints." (Luke 18:8)

**Concerning Persecution** he also wrote this: "If therefore, any one of the Lord's people *are escaping persecution*, he should *feel fearful* of his condition and should make a *careful examination* as to *whether he is faithful* to all the privileges and opportunities that he can find. This does not mean, however, that we should seek persecution in the sense of doing foolish things or of doing proper things in foolish manner. But it does mean that *we should not shrink from the responsibility* of proper conduct because of *fear of consequences*. Fear is one of the *most subtle foes* of the people of God. It should be offset *by trust, by faith* in God." (*Zion's Watch Tower*, Reprints, 5907, [16,'02,'09] *Bible Students Library CD*) This reminds us of Hebrews 2:15, where we are told that there are those "Who through *fear of death* are all their lifetime subject to bondage." Faithfulness in sacrifice even unto death. (Rev. 2:10 See entire text.)

Further, in *Zion's Watch Tower* Reprints, 5874, (1916) Rev. 6:9-11 we read, "*I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held; and they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How Long O Lord, Holy and true, doest Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?'*" -- *and white robes was given to them;*" and they were told that they should wait a "a little season," until their brethren, who were also *persecuted*, should have *the persecutions accomplished* in them." We note, that while Br. Russell substituted the words *persecution*, which well applies, the Scripture **also** reads, "until their *fellow servants also and their brethren*, that *should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*" (Rev. 6:11, KJV) The activities of the Wicked One *are not yet over* for we read "He shall bruise **thy heel (the heel members)** but thou shalt bruise his head (in due time *crushed*) under your feet, shortly." (Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20)

**The Hour of Power.** Further, the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, *when empowered*, in their "*hour of power*" will call for *recognition*, as was *required* of those three Hebrews. **This will be** the real "*hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*" (Rev. 3:10) We are told that *whoever* or "as many who *would not worship THE IMAGE* of the **BEAST should be killed.**" (Rev. 13:13-18) "They *shall cast out of the Synagogues: the time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think he doeth God a service.* And these things they do unto you, because they *know not the Father, nor me.*" (John 16:2,3)

**Finally,** in *Zion's Watch Tower*, Reprints, 3697, this statement is made, "So *popular* will Federated [**United**] Christianity become, that *even to criticize it* will be a "**crime**" *worthy of crucifixion* in some form -- socially, financially, if not [*literally to kill*] *physically.*"

"*Politicians* will quickly realize that their bread is buttered on that side, and *be ready to enact legislation of any kind desired by the Federation [Church Union]*. Mammon-worship will take on new forms temporarily, but **POWER will soon debauch** the unregenerate mass and *drive out* the regenerate faithful who may *temporarily be misled* by the great "**Union** movement" *in the name of Christ* (Christian right?), but without his Spirit or authority." Jesus admonished, "*And when they bring you into the Synagogues (even today's churches), and unto the Magistrates and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: for the Holy*

***Spirit shall teach [tell] you in the same hour [both then and in that future time also -- the hour of power] what ye ought to say.*** (What will be spoken, will be ***by God's Spirit working through them*** verbally as they speak)." (Luke 12:11,12)

Let us, therefore, and may God help us to, have the strength and courage necessary, whether through persecution's trial either *now* or in the *future*. Let us be encouraged the more to buckle on tightly "the whole armor of God," and to "fight the good fight" faithfully to the close. (Eph. 6:11; 1Tim. 6:12) Let us do this so that we may, with Br. Paul and all the faithful ones, share that crown of rejoicing which the Lord has promised to all who love Him supremely -- even unto death. (2Tim. 4:7,8) Amen. ■

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## Food For Christian Thought

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In an effort to cut back on printing demands, This study, "Reign of Christ" is designed so that it can be copied (black & white on Xerox) in such a way that it can be put, single sided, in a 1/2" 3 hole, White, Loose-leaf binder that is able to hold 8-1/2x11" paper, with clear plastic on the front and spine areas of the cover. Such a notebook can be obtained from "Office Depot" or other office supply store at a reasonable price of (\$1.99) more or less.

The Various parts of the study to be assembled are designated:

1. "Reign of Christ" - Cover (2 copies - 1 is glossy)
2. "Reign of Christ" - Cover Inside
3. "Reign of Christ" - text and finally
4. "Reign of Christ" - Spine

They are to be put together in the order in which they were named.

Only the cover and spine will not be 3-hole punched. The cover should be produced on a glossy photo paper and the selection should be for the "glossy" and it will automatically read "best" quality. The second "copy" of the cover (would be on regular paper) is for the inside of the book and would also be 3 hole punched. That is followed by the "cover inside" sheet which should be run on regular paper. The "Cover" will slip into the clear plastic front area of the notebook.

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May the LORD bless your studies.

In Christ,  
Zion's Tower of the Morning  
9/2003